



Missionary Letters

April 2010

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From: Kim Marks Petrutiu <krazymarks@yahoo.com>

Date: April 26, 2010 2:01:06 PM EDT

To: Pastor Scott Burdett <sburdett@gracechurchrootstown.com>, Pastor Rick Reynolds <p_rr54@yahoo.com>, Pastor David Ryan <dryan@gracebaptistcanton.com>

Subject: baptism Pictures

Here are a few pictures from the Tinca baptism on April 5 (the second day of Easter) I had to scan some photos so I hope they come out ok. Rahela is home from the hospital, but still home from school healing. Thank you for all your prayers.

Please pray for Gavri and his car situation. He is still driving the old green car he bought from the Oanas and it is breaking down every 2 days. He is very frustrated since it is so unreliable and buying another car seems impossible. He asked me to mention this situation to you all for prayer.

Greetings from Pastor Gavri, his family and all the churches (Tinca, Gurbediu, Telechiu).

Have a great week,

Kim





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Growth and Expansion

Ever since the mid 1100's Portugal has been a country of growth and expansion. Some years they grew more and some less. Historically, they are a people who loved the adventure of new worlds and new experiences. From the time of their first king, Afonso Henriques through the middle ages and Vasco de Gama, Portugal established itself on the world stage.

Our church plant in Ramada has been experiencing growth and expansion as well. Please join us in praying as this church plant develops. The growth is being seen in the depth of ministry and in the expansion of ministry. Here are some key areas of progress.

Fellowship

An important aspect of church development is fellowship. This is very difficult to measure. It is not something we can count. We definitely notice if it is lacking. Our little church has been growing in their love and ministry to each other. Multi-generational ministry is taking place. On a weekly basis, we are seeing people caring for one another. It has been a source of encouragement to watch people love one another through practical, tangible ways. Join with us in praying for continued growth in this area.

Baptisms and New Members

On Easter Sunday, we were able to have a baptism service. I had the privilege of baptizing our son, Rafael, and another young man named Lucas. Together they declared their obedience and willingness to follow Christ's commands. Recently we also received into membership two new families.

Outreach

This past Sunday (April 25), we reached a new high in attendance for a regular Sunday service. We had 72 for our worship service. We were amazed at the number of people in attendance that sporadically attend but are not yet connected. We also were amazed at the cultural diversity represented. We had a Nepalese young man (Milord), four gypsy children, several Brazilians, and a young mother from Guinea-Bissau. This diversity is reflective of an urban church. It also shows that our people are reaching out to their friends and neighbors and having a testimony in the community.

Internships

This year our church is hosting two internships. One is a pastoral internship. We are enjoying the development of a young Portuguese man named Tiago Bugalho. Tiago finished Bible college and is working with us in the ministry. He has a passion for the ministry and is making a very positive impact in our church. Please pray for Tiago as he ministers with us this year.

A second internship is still to come. Jeff and Megan Kliewer will be working with our church in a nine month missionary internship. They are from Columbus, OH. We are looking forward to working with them this fall.

Finances

An important step in church planting is the ability of a new church to assume its own financial responsibilities. Last year we averaged \$1,000 a month but to meet our budget this year we needed to average \$1,350 a month. This was a step in faith for us. So far in 2010, by God's grace, we have been averaging \$1,600 a month. Our people have responded to the challenge and are taking their financial responsibility seriously.

Soup, Sandwiches and Studies

On Wednesday nights our church created a ministry night. At 7:00, our worship team practices. At 8:00, we gather for soup and sandwiches (which Amy cooks and is enjoying). At 8:30, we divide into small groups for Bible Study. On the last Wednesday of each month we have an all church prayer meeting. These weekly meetings have been a source of encouragement for the whole church.

There is so much more we could write but you have enough details to get the idea. The Ramada Baptist church is growing and expanding. Join with us in regularly praying for this church plant as it takes steps towards its own independence.

In Christ,
Ken, Amy, Brian, Hannah, Rafael and Estefania.

Good Afternoon, Lisa.

Trust you all are doing well in preparations for the various services being held at Grace this Easter Season. It was at a revival at the original New Milford church 50 years ago last night that I received Christ as my Savior and through the Scriptures that I read at home later that night that my interest in missions was initially kindled (Rom. 10:9-17). How thankful I am for the foundation laid and encouraged by the Grace Church family!

Blessings in yours service today knowing He has great joy in you. (Zeph. 3:17),

Paul and Beryl Metko
America's Western Regional Director
Cadence International

PS. For prayer, we have incredibly full schedule of travel the next five weeks. Pray also as we work closely with a young ministry couple in Anchorage. Barb Evans life expectancy is now only six months due to cancer. We will be with them in about three weeks. This is a heavy concern for us.

To our dear partners and friends, colleagues and family members, and frontline prayer network people -- loving greetings and warmest regards in Christ!

It has been amazing to get started in furlough mode, getting to connect up with some of you already. What a joy to be in the Word together and see fruit and faithfulness along the way, accomplishing various tasks with setting up this Stateside mode and starting to get reacquainted with the native USA!

So it is soon to be May Day, and with all the wet weather we are reminded of the old groaner about April showers bringing May Flowers, and (with regard to the Mother country) we know that Mayflowers bring... PILGRIMS! Well, we are all "colonials" and even greater - to us in Christ members in the greatest Family in the World. Ours is a holy DNA, transfused from the Lord and His eternal and finished work at the Cross.

We just got a fresh note from QBC, and Pastor Phil is just thrilled with good fruit and faith there -- new growth in the church from seeds planted long ago as well as more recent connections. It is a thrill to us to see the healthy and thriving church you all had such a part in being blessed and expanded by God's might and power. They just had their first Annual Members Meeting last week without me -- and gladly they had a great time of rejoicing at the successful transition and forward movement, building steadily upon all the great work already accomplished. Wow -- that is Exactly how it is supposed to be!

And we are busily engaged in travels, and setting up shop to get some office work done and working on ministry, messages, lessons, and further scheduling in these times ahead. Part of our objectives for furlough ahead is to expand the Bridge Builders network, so please pray as we make new contacts, look for new partners, share God's great message of hope and light and great inspiration to our souls, and to plan out various medical and financial and missions training things etc. Loads to do to get all fully functional, so thanks for your prayers in all these regards. The schedule is starting to take shape, with thousands of miles to cover to the North and midwest and south, so we praise God for success in safety and mechanical sturdiness in the little pickup truck that takes us around!

And please do pray for the evidences of fruit through the preaching as well as meeting people personally (both in travels as well as in churches) to see God glorified with people coming to accept Christ and to be faithful as witnesses and growing healthy saints too. We see many people giving evidence and testimony of the Holy Spirit being at work in their lives through the ministry we have enjoyed with them, and this is a great part of sharing the Word like this.

Also please pray for Linda in this time of medical challenging times. Right now her health has been under siege with the Lymes disease reemerging and infections needing to be cared for. She has been quite unwell with the resurgence of the symptoms causing her a great deal of difficulty. It hits her with lots of muscle pain, nerves going nuts, sleep patterns all interrupted, and chronic fatigue. Sometimes she has been able to accompany me to meetings, and then sometimes (as this past weekend) she has had to stay behind and try to get some strength gathered up again. So our plans for her are fluid now, based on how the symptoms go and her ability to travel or not. She is a real trooper, so trying to get her to anchor down for her own health is not an easy task. Kinda like me -- I make a lousy patient! We aren't sure at the moment, but may need to arrange for an extended period of recovery for

her -- the Lyme specialist she is most interested in consulting has a 5 month waiting list, so we are looking at alternatives!

Good news -- my health is as good as ever, and my heart is energised with the ministry and fellowship, looking forward to great times in these months ahead of being in touch and seeing many of you again. I think of how the Apostle Paul was so frequently refreshed and encouraged in just that same way. And there have been so many exciting things the Lord has been doing that our hearts are very full and blessed as we go about our work.

Ha! All this talk about "Tea Parties" in the news, we thought we were still in England!

It has been a great joy to see the interest and care and enthusiasm about the Lord demonstrated with pastors and people we have spoken with. In the midst of difficult challenges and the darkness of an evil world, we see the light of Christ shine even brighter. And to see some of you whom we haven't seen since our last regular furlough in 2003 -- wow how the time flies!

So please pray for safety in travels, health, energy, good reception and fruitfulness, and for many who need to answer the call of God in their own lives to serve Him with all their hearts. I believe there are some that need to give their lives to fulltime ministry, and that they may never experience the full joy and peace and thrill in their souls until they submit to that compelling and welcoming pull of the Holy Spirit, saying YES to Him.

We have had a chance to see some of our family, and in the coming times we will enjoy seeing many of them as God allows in the schedule. It is a great joy to our hearts to see our kids and grandkids with healthy hearts and wonderful family care together, serving the Lord and being fruitful for Christ. That is tremendous to us -- and to know that even when we are apart that God loves our family even more than we do. Such assurance in that! And He monitors and meets their needs 24/7 -- much greater than we can even imagine.

Thanks to each of you for being so strong in support and care and encouragement and prayer, standing strong together with joy in the journey we have together. May the Lord thrill your souls with His splendid truth, and we commend you for sending that light out every day.

Sending you such love and thanks in Christ always,

Doug & Linda