



Missionary Letters

September 2010

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Dear Friends and Family,

In a recent *Homecoming Magazine* we read, thoughts about life purposes and the “...abundant life...” Jesus promised captured our attention. As we reflected upon the various articles and quotes, we assessed the ministries the Lord has allowed us to lead and participate in this year. They have been overflowing snapshots of abundance! With this letter we invite you to join us in humble praise for the Lord’s faithfulness to us in this very fast-paced year. Our desire is to share some memorable moments, but not before acknowledging the ongoing commitment by so many of you who pray, write, and share in our financial support. With the daily awareness of the impact of the ongoing economic chaos upon so many families, we wish to express our gratitude and assurance of our daily prayers for you.

January - Paul attended Tom Hash’s memorial service – which spoke volumes of a life well-lived with a rich legacy – a legacy that touched our family from our earliest months with OCSC!

February - In the midst of the East Coast winter storms, there was the blessing of visiting a number of you in NJ, PA, DC, and VA – most of whom were in our ministries in Germany. We were refreshed by each one of you.

March - With our home assignment completed, the Lord enabled us to resume our ministry travels. The highlight of each visit with our Cadence staff in WA, ID, CA, and AK revealed the reality of the “*life-giving and life-changing gospel*” that our staff are daily sharing with the lives of so many young servicemen and their families. Again, THANK YOU for your incredible partnership which enables us to focus on caring for our staff.



Beryl, Paul, Diane, Fred, Karyn, Connor

A particular joy in March was participating in the dedication of the new ministry at Fairchild AFB near Spokane WA. This ministry is directed by Fred, Diane, Connor and Karyn Stock.

April - Easter morning was very cool as we celebrated the Lord’s resurrection in the mammoth cargo bay of a C-5A Galaxy at Travis AFB followed by a full day of activities with Sandy and Sue Nafziger. (Note: Although Sandy did not regain full motion of the broken ankle you prayed about several years ago, the Lord continues to bless and expand their ministry.)



Barb and Dan Evans

Later in the month, we were in Alaska with Dan and Barb Evans, Wes and Elaine Auldridge and Ken and Julie Converse. In spite of Barb’s ongoing treatment for the glioblastoma multiforme brain cancer, the Lord is enabling the Evans to minister to people. Barb is considering starting a cancer care group. Give thanks for the provision of Linda Mitchell who is in her first month of serving as the nanny for Dan and Barb and their children, Caleb and Audrey.

May - We were home during this favorite time of the year as the radiance of spring flowers, azaleas and rhododendrons were in full bloom. A short enjoyable visit by Paul’s brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Kathy, was a delight.

Sharing the gospel and our lives with the military community

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Cadence family at the worldwide conference at Green Lake



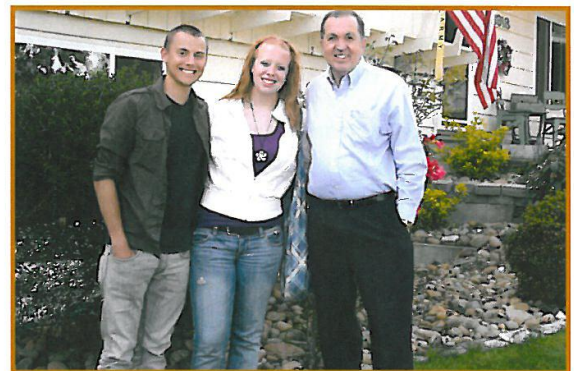
Five generations of Bamberg Hospitality House directors (l-r) the Metkos, the Kohls, Ardith Libby, the Perezes, and present directors, the Huisjens

June - Thank you for your prayers as we met with over 300 fellow Cadence missionaries at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. There were many wonderful reunions with our colleagues from Europe, Asia and from across the USA. Five new videos were unveiled that capture the expanding ministries of Cadence.

July - The opportunity to teach over 200 boys and girls in the missions aspect of our church's annual VBS was a privilege and partial fulfillment of God's purposes for life. Thirty-six children responded to the gospel! Thank you for your prayers.

FAMILY NEWS

Our granddaughter, Laurissa, has begun her first year at our alma mater, Multnomah University. Her dear friend, David Curtis (who is like a grandson to us), is in his final weeks of basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. The Lord is enabling him to maintain an effective witness for the Lord. (We are pictured in front of the Christian Fellowship House at Joint Base Lewis McChord.)



David Curtis, Laurissa, Paul

John, Debie, and children are on the move again. They are anxious to return to country living. Pray for the completion of the purchase of a country house on 1.6 acres. John has less than a year left on his degree program at Multnomah.

LOOKING FORWARD

Having our thoughts focused on life's purposes while on our home assignment, we began to pray and seek counsel regarding what the Lord might have for us in this season of life. The past 15 months of ministry have been rewarding and encouraging. We've been blessed to shepherd the finest, most dedicated missionaries for which we give thanks. Those months, as a few of you know, were extremely emotionally draining for us. Following our home assignment, we soon realized that the normal resiliency we have experienced after a short break was not there. Thus, in July we submitted a letter to our immediate Cadence leadership requesting our release from our Western Regional Director role effective January 1, 2011, which was approved. What will follow? We are exploring this with mission leadership. Thank you for your prayers at this time.

Yours, in discovering His will,

Paul & Beryl

Paul and Beryl Metko

Thank You

Dear Grace Church,

This leaves us both well. I, Jim, am still recovering from burning off my face. Not really, but it feels that way. I used a cream for 3 weeks that burned off all the unhealthy skin, so that new healthy skin can grow. It lowers my chances of skin cancer. My arms have another 3 weeks to go. Just think how handsome I'll be.

We have some good news regarding the printing of the Bible lessons we translated. A printer in N. Ireland has agreed to print 5,000 copies of each volume of our lessons. Praise the Lord! It's a huge answer to prayer. It's nice to see this project coming together. Have a better look at the project at:

http://www.ntm.org/give/give_project_details.php?project_id=128

Speaking of huge answers to prayer, yesterday our field committee approved our proposal to work more directly with churches and church leaders of this country our next term. We'd like to finish our years here by helping to strengthen them.

Kathy is getting more settled in her bookkeeping job, but she'll be glad to turn it over to her replacement in October.

Our home assignment is coming up in December. Usually the years fly by, but this term seems like it has been a long one. Maybe it's because of pulling double duty serving as regional chairman and working on translation at the same time. We hope to visit friends, relatives and churches in many states.

Tom and Aina keep cranking out Elimbari Bible lessons. They only have 12 more to complete those. Pray for them. Their house is about ready to fall down around them, but they wanted to finish the lessons before rebuilding it.

Thank you for your \$946.74 gift sent in August. We really appreciate the generous gift from the children.

In Christ's love,

Jim & Kathy

To our precious partners in the Bridge Builder family -- friends, supporters, colleagues, family members, and prayer power-boosters – What a great team you are, and what great work you do! God bless each of you, dear ones.

This is really overwhelming, writing today with such fullness of heart and spirit. It is one of those amazing times in the lives of Christ's servants, when we see the powerful leading of God, we answer with our whole heart's cry and desire of obedience, and turn a corner launching forward to more work and service with such immense promise and potential.

As to our furlough and transition, we are just so amazed at God's goodness. It has been wonderful to see some of you along the way in meetings as the schedule has allowed, and to enjoy such spiritual fruit as well as safety over the miles. Thanks so much for your warm and welcoming reception, both personally and to the ministry of the Word. I doubt any missionaries have ever had such a fantastic and hearty encouragement as you guys are to us. And of course we are so very eager to be there with more of you in these coming weeks and months ahead. We have waited until now to start contacting some of you for meetings because we wanted the pieces of the puzzle in place, and to see Linda's health situation further clarify.

Speaking of miles travelled, there have been an even greater volume of them all at once, and some of them shoehorned in between very full Sundays, especially as we have been fully engaged with searching the next step for us. We are literally in a change of clothes in the suitcase and off again today. Last week we were in Switzerland with ministry meetings with some very precious GOM missionaries serving throughout Europe. Last night Linda was privileged to have spoken in Poland (Ohio, that is!) – for the Bethany Fellowship of Churches Missionary meeting (in the Youngstown Ohio area). And tomorrow I join a team of 3 going to Romania (with Dave Dernlan of EBM) to train 2 groups of national church planters (I'll teach Christology) plus minister in churches through the interpreters. So the immediate schedule is stunning and truly intense!

But it is the big picture of our ministry, and direction and past and future that is most supremely on our minds and hearts and spirits right now. As we write this today, how we wish we were right there with you in person, sitting next to you, or at least on the phone with you personally, able to have live fellowship and sharing in deep and meaningful and transparent ways about the new ministry and our steadfast and most earnest hopes for your part of prayer and support and help carrying forward in it all.

Looking back on the ministry completed, it was tremendous to see God give us a modern-day miracle in church planting. Seeing our QBC church in England fully planted and graduated now has been one of the most wonderful works of God's Spirit that we have ever seen. And many of you were with us every step of the way. We believe your own hearts have been touched by what God has accomplished.

In the here and now, we've been praying and working closely with our sending church at Mogadore Baptist since our return from England, knowing that with the church

graduated and fully in British hands now, plus Linda's illness, that there would be a transition in our ministry. In fact, you supporting churches and pastors should have already received a letter from our sending church Pastor Rob Seymour that explains the tremendous way that God has now led us. **(special request here. Please – dear supporting churches: that letter was sent to each of you the middle of last week, Sept 21-22. If for some reason you have not received it, please contact the Mogadore Baptist Church office to get another sent and confirm the address – (330) 628-2030)** Actually there will or has been sent a letter as well from our dear ABWE administrator in Harrisburg Jack Shiflett to lend their help and encouragement.

In substance and with great prayer and trust in God's hand to lead us, together we have reached quite a landmark in the process of seeking God's plan as we look ahead to international church planting ministry. Thanks for your wonderful prayers and strong support as we have gone through this special time of transition.

Having seen God blessing His work and ministry there on the foreign field, and witnessing QBC moving forward with a Bible-centred vision and goal, we sensed that the Lord would possibly be leading us in another path of service that was related to international church planting. And now it is official! We have been called to work with another sister mission agency, to be serving as "Director of Church Planting and Ministry" with GOM. We are now appointed to this and need to raise the support for it. We will be actively involved with national Christians and missionaries in several countries who serve with GOM and other additional evangelical mission boards like ABWE and EBM, with long-range goals to build and promote a network of equipping and mentoring nationals for ministry. It will have a global and very energetic, accountable design. It will also allow Linda to have the medical treatment and involvement in ministry according to her healing, using her abilities and gifts. As I said, the chronic nature of her illness has been quite a challenge, with the relapse of her Lyme disease since being Stateside.

The vision for this ministry is keeping with Paul's pattern and passion: 2 Tim 2:2 -- committing to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Ephesians 4:12 -- For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. This truth has stamped itself deeply upon our souls, becoming a part of our spiritual DNA.

As I said before, it is a thrill and joy that our sending church & pastor at Mogadore Baptist near Akron are 100% behind us in this endeavour. Likewise ABWE is lending their support and encouragement to us as we transition into this challenging new hands-on ministry of international church planting work, with many shorter-range goals also in development. The ministry is based upon the scriptural foundation and practical lessons gained from direct involvement and observations in church planting, and what we believe is the need to develop new paradigms of ministry initiatives. This is true especially in light of scriptural patterns, whilst looking as well at the realities of government situations, difficulties with visas, costs, and doing better long-range strategic planning. You were a first-hand witness of God's mighty work and fruitful provision at Quedgeley Baptist Church. The next ministry will involve, as the Spirit of

God may so direct and favour, steps to include creating a movement of energising saints of many lands to reach into their own indigenous cultures for evangelism, discipleship, training, and mentoring of church planting and Bible-based outreach. So, by design, this work will include several US responsibilities as well as varieties of on-location ministry in various countries.

GOM - Global Outreach Mission -- is a solid conservative evangelical sister mission agency now serving in over 48 countries with over 500+ missionaries in ministry worldwide. It is an incredible and awesome joy to join forces with them for the cause of the Cross worldwide. Many church planting, medical, and humanitarian ministries are now engaged where there is first-hand witness of many souls being saved and ministries started. Personnel are in need of know-how to get churches planted, even in Muslim countries where the Gospel is powerfully bringing a harvest of spiritual fruit.

Training centres are being established in places like Sierra Leone and Burma (Myanmar), and urgent needs are currently calling for our help in Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, the Philippines, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Some compensatory and remedial mentoring/ training will also be needed in places where current national leaders are overwhelmed and under-equipped. Clearly these pressing needs bring a deep stirring to our hearts each night as we pray for this desperately needy world, seeking to see it through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

The ministry will also include a growing global application of preaching and teaching, ministries in music, radio ministry (GOM has the longest-running evangelical radio program in North America), recruitment, fund-raising, support raising, developing training materials in foreign languages, training new missionaries, and coming alongside of existing foreign nationals as well as missionaries to aid, assist, and encourage their field work. Starting to lay the foundation and build the team will take great steps of faith and provision from on High.

We are asking God to keep every one of our long relationships with you in place, and to keep the monthly support going to engage this ministry. We deeply need you to stay with us, and some more of you churches and individuals to please join with us now, standing substantially with us in greater prayer and by sending monthly support. ABWE is transferring us over to GOM. We hope to avoid long times of deputation! Please send your support for us now, made out to:

GOM (Global Outreach Mission)

Box 2010

Buffalo, NY 14231-2010 (Please mark Doug & Linda Wilson on the check note)

Of course, we believe that these immediate ministries, plus the organising and planning stages starting now, need our strong prayerful support. We hope all this information may be helpful as you continue praying for us and hopefully faithfully standing with us in this new ministry. This transition will all be completed by the end of November. Sitting and writing this is helpful to me as I move forward embracing the spiritual work and scope of this ministry. Only God can do it. Just as we humbly accepted the challenge to

go and trust God - that He might do something amazing there in Quedgeley, so now we also realise a total and absolute dependence upon God's Spirit for this next phase of our work -- it seems like about 50-60 years of work to be done!

Let me close with a very special and deeply personal, spiritual note from this transition that has been sustaining and reassuring to us. The administrative team at GOM had all 4 of their senior administrators at the meeting they invited me to for sharing our vision and heart. There was such a bond and kindred spirit, flowing our meetings into over 4 hours together. A truly defining moment indeed. I shared one final word with them that has been so directional, sharing that I believe we must know that we are an answer to someone's very diligent prayer, to provide ones such as us to fulfil this task. We wanted God's fingerprints on it and verified by many other than ourselves. And indeed, we see this is so.

So we are almost breathless with excitement and enthusiasm, awe and humble pleading with God to use us to His glory as we try with all our hearts to honour His claim and call upon our lives.

with such joy and our loving thanks always,

Doug & Linda Wilson

your partners in international church planting to be serving as
Director of Church Planting and Ministry
Global Outreach Mission