



Missionary Letters

February 2011

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February 28, 2011

Dear Pastor & Church,

We have begun the process of moving to Australia. Of course that involves getting prices for tickets, transport companies for our needed supplies, packing, legal papers to enter the country. Now we are Australian citizens (we have dual citizenship) but while we were here in the States our passports expired we didn't want to spend the extra 600 dollars to renew them unless we knew for sure we could go back. Well, we are...so now we will do that. There are so many things to prepare and that is where we are right now.

We still don't have all our support but we are in hopes that it will come in soon. We are at 92.5% and hopefully that will increase. We have 4 more churches to go to, right now and are hoping that between those we have been and those we will be that it will take care of that. But we have developed a small challenge...we had to take Vicki (my wife) to the emergence room Sunday night. It turns out that she has a blood clot in her right leg. Some, of which, broke off and went into her lungs. As you know this is a very serious condition she has had to spend this last week in the hospital as they try to thin her blood to dissolve the clother doctor has told her that it would be dangerous for her to travel the long flight to Australia for at least two to three months. This will delay our departure for a little while until she is able to travel again.

This has a little silver lining at the end of the tunnel in that we were short about six thousand dollars in travel expenses any way. We have had one estimate to move our needed goods to Australia and are waiting for 3 other estimates and will take the best of the 4. With that and the cost of tickets, passports and other necessary expenses we have found that we could use some additional help. We have saved 7,000 dollars while on deputation and so far 6 churches have helped us with 5,800 which we certainly thank those who have helped in this way.

I don't know any other way to say this but "I sure could use some help." We really tried to save as much as we could while traveling across the States raising monthly support and some have told us "if we needed anything else to let them know." Well this is one of those things...as much as I hate to ask. Whatever you can do.....it doesn't matter how small because "little is much when God is in it"....out of 67 churches which are sending us to Australia ...it will mount up to be sufficient. Thank you!

Ron & Vicki Letts

Your missionaries are finally ready to go!

February 18, 2011

Friends,

I wanted to write you and have you join us in prayer for next weekend. This year we (Ramada Baptist Church) really wanted to focus on evangelism. The last weekend in February shows how we are putting this into action.

Friday, Feb. 25 – Our teens usually meet on Friday nights for games and a Bible Study. Our leaders have decided to make the last Friday of each month a youth outreach event. This first event will focus on gathering other teens together to give something away. Each youth will be responsible to bring some non-perishing food to help others in need. During the event we will also explore God's greatest gift to mankind, Jesus Christ.

Saturday, Feb. 26 – This year our couples dinner will also focus on evangelism. We could have as many as 30 couples in attendance. Last year we had 10 couples but this year the enthusiasm has really grown. Join with us in praying as we plan and prepare for the meal.

Sunday, Feb. 27 – Our church financially supports a Portuguese couple involved in starting a church in Cartaxo, Portugal. Sunday afternoon (after our worship service and Sunday school) Ken will be preaching at this church plant. It is important for our church plant to already have a vision of reproducing itself. We want to be actively involved in the process. Pray with us through this busy weekend.

We wanted to let you know that in the last year and a half several churches have had to drop our support (one church closed) and several churches have lowered our support. We are currently around \$700 a month under supported. We made the necessary budget adjustments. Please pray that this tendency does not continue and that some of the lost support will be regained.

Thank you so much for being interested in us and our ministry.

In Christ,

Ken and Amy Lowe

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Dear Family and Friends,

Feb. 11, 2011

We appreciate the many different ways you've communicated with us during the Christmas season: family pictures, updates, sharing personal challenges, answers to prayer, and losses and changes that have affected you personally. So many evidences of God's grace and spiritual growth.

The Lord is working in our lives as well and we praise Him for reshaping and growing us in areas of trust. Just last week we received a written description of our next assignment with Cadence. It will be in the personnel department mentoring new missionaries as they prepare for their first field assignments. For many it seems like a long process, but Lord willing, we can be used beginning in June to offer encouragement to those already in various stages of preparation, and to a new class of candidates that we will meet in CO.

Thank you for coming alongside us as we begin to make this transition from one responsibility to another. Beginning in mid-Feb. through May, we will be on home assignment. We anticipate connecting with many of you in the Northwest and others in the Great Lakes states (MI, IN, OH). *- We will be in contact as soon as possible about visiting Grace Church - early May??*

How grateful we are for your faithful prayers and long standing financial encouragement including several end of the year gifts. Finally, keep the Evans family in your prayer. Barb has home hospice and has expressed, "I am ready for my new body."

Thank you for your quarterly gift of \$600. We trust the Lord has brought renewed giving to your church

Yours in anticipation of His plans,

Paul & Beryl Mettke

It is getting close to planting season again as spring approaches. It is a wonderful time of year watching the grass start to grow, trees blossom, and seeing a dozen earthworms in my six-year-old's hands after a warm rain. This is the time of year we prepare the soil and plant the seeds for our gardens. Many of us enjoy the process of getting our hands dirty to enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors later in the summer and fall.

A lot of work takes place in getting the crops to produce well. The soil needs to be prepared. Bugs and animals take their portion of the crop. Weeds need to be pulled up and much hoeing helps produce an enjoyable crop. I enjoy watching my children stuff their faces with tomatoes and seeing the red ripe juice trickle down their chins.

Gardening is a progressive work. Timing is crucial. There is no reward of a good crop until it has grown and matured. In 1 Corinthians 3: 8, 9 the apostle Paul writes, "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

We are all laboring together to spread the gospel, working to see souls saved, and helping each other grow in the Lord. It may seem at times that we are stuck in the mud, constantly battling distractions (weeds), or not seeing things change (waiting for the crop to mature) spiritually quickly enough. Keep persevering. Keep doing the good work God put us together to perform for His glory. When the crop is ready, and you see the fruits of your labor spiritually in yourself and others, it will well be worth the prayers, time, effort, agony, and wait.

May God richly bless your work for Him this year.

Jim & Kathy Tanner

Upon this rock I will build My church

Joy-filled greetings with love to all our dear friends, support team, family, colleagues, and prayer partners... (hope you like the new logo!)

Coming your way with warm hearts and full spirits, glowing bright in Christ regardless of the weather... although yes, we are kinda hoping that fat, sleepy Groundhog got it right predicting for an early Spring!

This weekend has people thinking about Valentines Day, so it should be a perfect time to remind ourselves about history's greatest love story, revealed and offered from Christ in the Gospel. We need to be intentional with sharing it meaningfully, even with the resistant hearers around us, for how will we know if these needy souls are to be part of God's family unless we share it with them and see their response? We're talking about how the eternal Thrice-holy God gives an enduring *agape transfusion* to those who ask by faith... life-changing and transforming. So we warmly invite you to please, go grab yourself a cup of hot coffee (or tea, or spiced cider, or hot chocolate), and spend a few minutes with us, getting caught up with the latest plans, reports, needs, and hopes, and then lets do some very important on-going intercession about it all too. Big picture: we keep celebrating the mighty goodness of God even with challenges and having so much to learn. We pray and hope you're likewise enthusiastic about God's work and guidance in your lives. You are a major part of what God uses to keep us energised, and we humbly and sincerely thank the Lord for you.

Praise to the Lord for support now at about 67% overall (as best we can calculate, because we are still looking into health insurance cost, travel funds required to go to the fields, and other not-yet determined costs to figure out). But we are making progress, and this is encouraging. And we are so grateful for safety and health through all the busyness of life and ministry in churches and preps, etc. on all fronts. We are truly UP TO OUR EYEBALLS on many fronts of biblical and practical elements of missions ministry. There are many state-based ministry plans blending together with asking God to supply funds to take urgently requested foreign trips (more about that below). Gladly, after a few delays, and special thanks for some really great help from talented teck-gifted supporters, many media-oriented things are really amping up. Bridge Builders is getting a facelift, upgrading the letterheads, emails, prayer cards, and the media (powerpoint and web stuff) ... that is all in process as we finalise and fund it. More pictures are getting worked on this next Tuesday so we'll see if they can possibly make this rough-looking guy (and his always gorgeous bride) acceptable to put on a Prayer Card you'll not be scared to put on your refrigerators!!... Hopefully you'll get some of them fresh from the printer next month.

God is at work and it is powerful. Reports from Africa last month have been very encouraging, with several dozen Muslim people coming to faith in Christ, and multiple hundreds of people treated in the hospitals too. There were old-

fashioned tent meetings in Sierra Leone, along with more fresh water wells being drilled and new land being cleared for church buildings. Sometimes we need to transcend the earth surface and noise and clutter, and gain a clear divine perspective of what the Lord is doing in other spots of the globe, looking at it all through His eyes. Amazing and inspiring; motivating and challenging.

It is fascinating to find that we are meeting more and more new folks these days. This is really great, and we hope to become fast friends with deep connection together to various ones in partnership for ministry. Gaining and developing new contacts is time and labour-intensive work. Some fruit of it is years away, and it requires loads of prayer-generated correspondence and ongoing travels/scheduling on the deputation trail. This gets done along with seeking to care diligently for practical matters like health insurance explored and figured out if possible. Please pray -- healthcare options are really messy and pricey things. We're also right now doing UK and US taxes. In one word: YUCK! Also dealing with transportation realities, and glad we haven't been stranded yet! The car transmission is still skipping and lurching a lot at 198K miles, so we'll hope it won't conk out without an emergency igloo nearby! But then it all blends together with direct ministry objectives too, some of which get me really happily revved up. This past week we met with yet more possible recruits for missions ministry, and they almost always have other friends in their churches that want to do something together for Christ on the mission field. Can't you just feel the excitement of potential and the zeal these various ones may have to make a difference!

Here's a terrific update from QBC, our completed church plant in England -- thrilling to think that on Feb 11 was the 10th anniversary of the church. That was a truly life-defining ministry; a joy we'll never forget. There were 77 people attending on that first Sunday morning service in 2001, launching us into the adventures of faith and fruit He brought for us to see constantly firsthand. And this continues today. I had a special chat the other day with Phil Grubb (the national pastor who was unanimously voted in to take it over for us) and he was so thrilled with it all. The foundation laid and the fresh continuing building upon it that God was/is prospering so well is a marvel! 8 new members joined in their quarterly meeting a few weeks ago, and 4 more are in the baptism class. Strength and solid growth are also reflected by their spiraling church attendances at Sunday (morning & evening) and prayer meeting services, and gratefully reported that they are also ahead of budget. Stand up and Shout glory to God!! People we had ministered to for many years are taking the right next steps in their walk with Christ, and new people are also being reached! Guess what? You had a major hand in this. God is still in the business of building His church on the enduring solid bedrock, even in resistant cultures. Rejoice in these stunning success stories of God's grace.

And here are some of the other things now happening..., By faith, we are asking God to provide and allow us to do a few foreign trips right now even during this

restarted deputation plus further reporting to our wonderful existing support team members. There are literally hundreds of church planters and national pastors awaiting training, direction, and guidance. It is hard to set priorities where to go first (because there are dozens of countries we're trying to get to), but we think the Lord is leading to 3 places on top of the list for hands-on work ... this year if possible. These are exciting opportunities and will be special faith ventures for us to shoehorn in if together with our dear supporters we can make it happen. Will you pray with us, and if possible jump on-board with special help to get the costs covered if you could. These trips would do the essential groundwork impossible to do from here. We'll look to meet and work and plan with the national leaders and missionaries on the ground, look at schedules, logistics, budgets, assess needs, define objectives, find spiritually-qualified translators, refine curriculum and theological assets in the language/dialect, plus effective available delivery methods to add in (along with classes - books, internet, correspondence, etc), explore facilities available, minister in churches, and start building the various personal contacts and accountability with the church planters in the countries. Yeah -- loads to do! Please help!

so - Here are the first 3 we are praying God will get us to as soon as possible: Costa Rico (closest and least pricey to get to: about \$2,500 needed to do this next month (the end of March), Sierra Leone Africa (where there has just been 3 major outreaches to follow-up on with several amazing open doors. \$4500), and Myanmar (the furthest and costliness - no budget yet, but potentially the best opportunity for eventually taking others in with me to train nationals and planters, and there is already a campus and translators available). I think India is another spot with tremendous potential waiting right now to move into building the 2 Timothy 2:2 ministry we are passionate about, as they have 2 fairly large church planting movements going there that we could be working with quite soon if we can arrange it. And actually, I feel our experience in Europe might be even better used to get some training networked jointly with our sister mission agencies, eventually merging teams in places like Romania, Spain, the Ukraine, and other spiritually thirsty movements awaiting Living water to flow and keep running. Keep in mind, statistically half of all Bible-believing evangelical missionaries world-wide are now in their 60's and 70's, so we need solutions that build strong continuity to the next generations and those nationals and missionaries resident in the cultures prepared to take on these opportunities. Man, my ministry dream engine is going redline! Our hearts are so alive to get out there in these harvest fields, so we pray for monthly support and extra one-time gift help to make these things happen!

Gladly Linda is holding her own medically, even with the cold weather struggles. It seems the herbal and diet and exercise therapy combination she's taking now is bringing some stability so long as we don't over test her. I guess one of the things that is hard to adjust to is that we were going full tilt with all-out sprinting in the ministry for so long that it is not easy to find the happy medium on how

fast to set the throttle for her. So we still plan her into things as she can and I keep rolling.

Well, your poor eyes are probably about to pop out from all this typing to read! (these fingers can't hardly keep up with all the thoughts!) Please send along our love and greetings to everyone in your families and churches. We sure do thank you for your love and care, encouragement, prayer, support, and keen interest in everything going on!

We thank God for you so much. Now let's pray together like crazy for God to bless in tremendous ways.

with such joy and loving thanks always,

Doug & Linda

Pastor Doug & Linda Wilson

"Building Bridges on Bedrock" Matthew 16:18

your partners in international church planting

to be serving as Director of Church Planting and Ministry

Global Outreach Mission: *PO Box 2010, Buffalo, NY 14231-2010.*