May 15, 2012

Go. Baptize. Teach.

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"Unless the LORD builds the house"...



In less than four weeks we'll be back on the ground in South Africa again, traversing a good portion of the country (about 2,500 - 3,000 miles north, south east and west) looking for the place where Christ would have us settle to develop a permanent teaching/training/resource center to minister to the orphans, vulnerable children, caregivers and local church leaders He has put on our hearts.

The five and a half months we have been back in the states has been the longest we've been back in over three years and it has been a true blessing to have been back long enough to be involved in stateside ministry through Great Divide Calvary in Breckenridge, Colorado, by organizing Precept Ministries International leader training, leading a study of David Platt's book "Radical", participating in other bible studies, outreaches, mission trips and having a couple opportunites to share the Word at weekend services. We even were able to transport a group of youth to "Pure Rebellion" at which several gave their lives to Christ! It was also a time of refreshing, a time not only to re-connect with old friends whom we had not seen for quite some time, but also a time to develop some new, dear, friendships. We thank God for allowing us the time to refresh, renew, and wait on Him.

During the eight years we have been ministering in Africa we have seen great physical suffering, poverty and need... need for safe shelter, food security, health care and education, clothing. In spite of the overwhelming physical suffering, poverty and need, the greatest need we have seen is for the true Word of God as revealed in His holy scripture to be taught. We have learned that in most cases it is not relief that is needed, but restoration on broken relationships with God, one another and all of His creation is needed.

Christ has given us a clear vision for how He would have participate in restoring these broken relationships... through the establishment of a permanent teaching/training and resource center from which we can be in community or "do life" 7 days a week, 24 hours a day with the people He has called us to minister to. He has also given us a clear vision of the place He would have us do it from... a property of about 10-15 hectares (25-40 acres) which would provide enough space for buildings in which to live, teach, and worship in as well as space to raise vegetables and small livestock (chickens for eggs and meat, sheep, goats and maybe a few cows) for our own consumption and as a sustainable source of employment and income for the orphans, vulnerable children, caregivers and local church leaders we will be working with. The ideal location would be near a municipality for access to health care and institutes of higher education, and near one or more informal settlements again to to give us access to the orphans, vulnerable children, caregivers and local church leaders we have been called to minister to.

We are intentionally waiting on the Lord to provide wisdom and guidance as we take this next step of faith in this adventure. We do not want to do anything in our own wisdom or strength, for as Solomon wrote in Psalm 127, "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." {Psalm 127:1a NKJV}. We remain committed and obedient to His desires and confidently believe that He will show us the place, provide the people and finances to build a house that brings glory and honor to His holy name. We are prepared to respond as He leads... if He brings it all together sooner rather than later we are prepared to get busy, but if He says it is not yet His time we are just as prepared to wait.

That being said, please join us in prayer that Christ show us clearly the place He would have us start, that we have eyes to see, ears to hear. minds to discern and hearts to accept His wisdom and counsel, that He begin to lift up... even now... a couple or family to join us in His command to Go, Baptize, and Teach, and that he release the funds required to do all this in His name.

In Christ who gives us strength,

Bill Srosan

Bill and Susan Weibel

"they labor in vain who build it" psalm 127:1a

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Prayer Requests

 Prayer Request: For wisdom and guidance as we move forward to continue to bring glory and honor to His name.

Prayers that we would be guided by His Holy Spirit as we travel the highways and by-ways fo South Africa and possibly a few neighboring countries looking for the place that He would have us build His house.

• Prayer Request: That Christ raise up the people, in America and in Africa, to join us in this journey.

Please be praying for Christ to be stirring the hearts of at least one American couple or family to join us in establishing the teaching/training/resource center He has given us the vision for, as well as a local African person or family to reside on the property and minister with us.

Prayer Request: That Christ release the funds to make the vision a reality.

We believe that where Christ guides, Christ provides. Please join us in prayer that once He has shown us the place and raises up the people, He release the financial resources to make the center a reality.



By the grace of God and with your help last year we were blessed to receive a \$2,000 grant from our friends at **Giving of Life**. This year, with under a week left in Season 1 of their 2012 Grant Initiative, we are once again blown away by the support we have been receiving from our on-line community, which has us in second place of our category of "Youth Ministry" and third place overall! We need to finish in the top five of our category when voting ends on May 22nd to be considered for a \$10,000 grant to help us bring the Good news of Jesus' love to the children, youth, adults and church leaders we minister to in Africa. There's still time for you to help by casting your vote for us at http://www.givingoflife.com/profile/tentmaker-ministries/. Just click the "Vote" button for your first vote.

Don't stop there, though, you can get extra votes by clicking on "Get More!" after your first vote. You get one vote per IP address (automatically provided when you visit the site), two MORE votes for creating a Giving of Life account, one MORE vote for providing your Facebook URL, and one MORE vote for providing your Twitter handle. After you register you will receive a confirmation email from Giving of Life. Click on the link in it, login, and vote some more!