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October, November, December 2010

Insight International Braille Outreach Worldwide

Please consider this ministry in estate planning.

Hello to all our brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe that this is the last quarterly newsletter for 2010. My grandmother always said that the older you get, the faster time seems to rush by! How right she was. Please join me as I share a few of the highlights for the last quarter of this year. I will include a brief end of year summary near the conclusion of this newsletter.

MINISTRY NEWS

When we allow God to lead, wonderful things happen in His Kingdom. On Sunday, 21 November, a blind couple, who were contacted via the Bible camps, and who studied for some time, obeyed the Gospel, being baptized into Christ in a congregation near Madurai, South India. As I mention so often, these new Christians especially need our prayers. They face persecution and problems that the vast majority of us will probably never experience. This ministry is dedicated to bringing God's precious word to as many blind people as possible, and we are most thankful and excited when any of them decide to make Jesus the Lord of their life.

One of the most encouraging outreach efforts of this ministry has recently begun in Mombasa, Kenya's second largest city. As I mentioned in previous letters, Brother Joseph Juma is delivering the Braille, large print, and audio Bibles which we send. He takes them to a group of blind people and this gives him the opportunity to teach them; some have already attended the congregation where he worships. Three Muslims in the group have already asked for the scriptures in Braille. Every two to three days, I receive an email letting me know that Joseph has received more cartons of Bibles. Our prayer is that God will bless and guide Brother Joseph in bringing many of these people to our Lord.

Brother Vinay Kumar works in the Telugu-speaking region of India. Recently, he has asked us for 24 Bibles on cassette in that language. We have also provided him with some cassette players.

Brother Philemonrajah has found Tamil Bibles on CD at a good price, and we sent funds to buy 250 of them. God willing, we will buy more as he needs them. They are distributed to blind people who ask for them.

Although the internet, mail, and phones play an important part in our outreach, there is simply no substitute for travel and personal visits to let others know that we are here to help them in bringing God's message to the blind. In October, I visited and worked with the staff of the largest audio Bible production site in Bradenton, Florida. I helped to put audio introductions on their Bibles, and worked on a DVD which is intended to increase awareness of the scriptures by audio. I also spoke in several places in Ohio and requests have already come from some of those who were there, including from a long distance truck driver from south Texas who attended one of the services where I spoke. He met a man who is blind, and who did not even know he could have access to the scriptures. Nursing homes and retirement centers are also good places for audio and large print Bibles, and I spoke at several of these. From the last estimates I have, between 4,000 and 6,000 people are losing their sight each month in the US alone, largely due to diabetes and macular degeneration. I meet people all the time who either want to continue studying the scriptures, both on their own and in groups, or who want to begin a study of God's Word.



Glynn in the recording studio



Filming on the DVD in Bradenton, Florida

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Glynn in front of the audio cassette winder



Glynn with the duplicating machine

SUMMARY

We thank God that nineteen blind people obeyed the Gospel so far in 2010. All of them have congregations to study and worship with. It is possible that others whom we are not aware of have put on Christ, as the Bibles and materials we send go to many parts of the globe. Many more are studying the scriptures, and we sent more Courier, electronic talking Bibles this year than ever before. Several hundred Bibles in Braille, large print, and audio also went to various nations and in many languages. The new work in Kenya began, and works in India were expanded.

I received an email from a lady in Ireland who has a fifteen year old daughter who is blind. Their family does a daily devotional, and she asked for a CD and an electronic talking Bible. When we talked by phone, she also asked that I visit their family the next time I am in the area.

Some of you have asked me about the current economic crisis in Ireland. We have an extremely close association with many people there. Our prayers are with the nation. The economic bailout will burden the nation for many years, and is already affecting so many of our friends. The former Celtic Tiger has become a Celtic disaster! Volumes are being written as to why, but basically overspending, bad banking practices, sky rocketing salaries, and government denial are all a part of this national nightmare!-- hmmm does that scenario sound familiar?! I listen to Irish media, and am in daily contact with people who are suffering from decisions largely outside their control.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Yearly operating costs for this ministry are between \$65,000 and \$70,000. This includes office help, equipment, utilities, postage, funding for Bible camps, help for funding the work in Mombasa, Kenya, Bibles, travel, and other related costs. Approximately \$40,000 yearly comes from monthly support, and the remainder is met by one-time gifts. Both are important. We pray and fervently hope for continuing monthly help, and for a good response for end of year one-time contributions. Not only can donations be made by mail to this address, but they may also be made through PayPal, using this email address: insightbow@aol.com. Along with monthly gifts, we use these end of year contributions to budget for 2011.

Regarding our personal family support, health insurance increases continue to plague our finances, just as they do for so many citizens of this nation. In October we were informed that our policy would be increased from \$885 monthly to \$992, beginning this December. Yes, we have considered many other options, but can find nothing better. Those of you who shop will also laugh with us at the government's assertion that there is little or no inflation! We pray that our support will continue at least at the current level. As is the case for many readers of this letter, our retirement savings took quite a hit during the recent economic downturn, around 25 percent loss, which is better than some retirement accounts.

Finally, we thank each of you who partner with us through your prayers and support. As I say so often, you make this outreach possible! I am sorry that I can't communicate with everyone individually, and I ask your forgiveness if I should have corresponded and did not do so. If you have a mail or an email address change, please let us know so that this quarterly letter will reach you. May you have a safe and really enjoyable Christmas, and a Christ centered 2011. We thank God for all that you do to help this work, and also to help our family.

With thanks, love, and prayers, in Christ,

Glynn, Ann, Andre and Elise Langston