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Insight International Braille Outreach Worldwide

Please consider this ministry in estate planning.

To all our brothers and sisters,

Greetings in our Lord and only saviour, Jesus Christ. We pray for you often, and hope that you are well and are enjoying the summer.

I wanted to use a rather lengthy section of an email from one of our brothers, but with all the news, space just doesn't allow this. Also, I have asked Ann to write a paragraph about her group mission trip to Zimbabwe. All this, plus other news means a really full letter this time.

MINISTRY NEWS

The scriptures not only tell us, but also give examples of God's Word bringing results in the lives of those who follow Him. Fifteen new baptisms into Christ in two rural areas of India serve as recent examples. As you know, you help us bring the scriptures in several languages, and you also provide financial support to study in Bible camps in India and other places. About two years ago, several blind people, who had been studying God's Word, came to a weekend Bible camp where some of them obeyed the Gospel. Because of the nature of their isolation, they lost touch with the brethren in Madurai, India. When brother Philemonrajah heard from them, and went to visit them, he found that they had begun two congregations in their region, and that fifteen had become Christians! All this is in spite of the difficulty they face, not only through blindness, but also because of persecution. I was most excited and encouraged by this news. Do please pray for growth and faithfulness among these blind and visually impaired souls. This news should cause every one of us to take heart, and to work to bring others into God's wonderful Kingdom!

Brother Joseph Mukewa, his wife Lucy, and their children, continue to work to bring more blind people to our Lord. You also help us by providing prayers and financial support to aid their efforts. Joseph travels several hundred miles each month, on bad roads, and under trying conditions, to meet with groups of blind people and to deliver Braille, large print, and audio Bibles to them. He has written to me about one man who has learned of Christ's salvation, and who wants to become a Christian. We rejoice in the fruit that this ministry is bearing in Kenya, and ask for your prayers in that outreach effort also.

We have not heard from anyone in the nation of Zambia for a few years, but recently a friend who is doing mission work in that nation hand-carried some audio Bibles and has shown us the need to send more. She met a man called Thomas who is almost blind. He runs a small shop, and he was so excited to get an English Bible in audio form. We hope to have pictures of Thomas soon, and can perhaps put them in the next newsletter.

We continue to receive phone calls asking for the electronic talking Bibles which have become popular among blind people. These calls come from many states and some English speaking nations as well. I always include some Bible study CD's with every Bible we send, and I know of one person in the Chicago area who has been baptized into Christ. Of course, we also continue to send the scriptures in large print, Braille, and in other audio forms.

In April, our 10 minute DVD presentation of this ministry was finished and sent to me. We are most grateful to those who donated time, funds and logistical support to make this ministry presentation possible. It is impossible for me to visit each one of you as often as I would like, and this visual-audio production is most useful in describing what we do. I stress that this DVD is not a worship tool, but is simply a short presentation about the need to bring more blind and visually impaired people to Christ, and about the resources available to help us do this. It can be used in funding efforts, but is also a medium to inform others about what God allows us to do. If you would like a copy, would you please email, phone, or write to me? Our only request is that the DVD be watched and not simply shelved.

May I show you another example of God's providence? As you know, I spend considerable time in Ireland every year speaking throughout the country in churches, schools, and on the radio. This nation also serves as a base as I present this ministry in the UK, Scotland, and in various places in Europe. On my first day here, I was traveling from Dublin to Cork. My train to Boston was late and that meant the need to take a later flight to Ireland. On boarding the train, I met a blind student (Robert Creed) who studies in University College Cork. Robert had to get a later train as traffic delayed his getting to the railway station on time for an earlier train. We sat together,

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and it turned out that Robert is a part of a Bible study group. He was delighted when I showed him the electronic, talking Bible, and he spent much of the two and a half hour journey examining it and learning the various features. Of course he wanted one badly, so Ann brought it here when she came. Robert has also asked me to speak to the student group in Cork once university resumes. The university in Cork has more blind students than any other university in Ireland.

ANN'S MISSION TRIP TO ZIMBABWE

First, a heartfelt thank you to the financial supporters who contributed over \$900 to defray the cost of this trip and to those who provided school supplies to aid in teaching. And a special thanks to Johan Adendorff, an elder at the Riverside congregation in Lafayette, and to Paul Jones, minister of the church in Palestine, Texas and to many others for their time and effort spent in organizing every aspect of our travel and lodging while in Africa. Six Christians from Lafayette and twenty two from Texas participated in this mission effort, details of which are available on the website of Riverside Church of Christ. My assignment was to teach Bible classes to children of all ages and to ladies in churches, schools, and clinics in two rural communities, Plum Tree and Lupane.

Zimbabwe is an impoverished, drought ridden nation of both large cities and tribal rural communities, all with limited resources as the population struggles to establish a modern, functional society in a nation of diversity of language and culture. The people received us with great hospitality and welcomed us with beautiful harmonized singing everywhere we went. Many walked two or three days to attend church service or the clinic and were eager for Bible teaching. The children in the school (even those as young as three years old) sing in perfect harmony and with enthusiasm to please visitors. The teachers and administrators were most supportive of our efforts and the children extremely attentive and well behaved despite the fact that most of the classes consisted of around two hundred children crowded into one classroom. We taught a series on the miracles of Jesus to foster and strengthen faith in the Bible as the word of God and Jesus as our Saviour.

One aspect of the mission was to publicize this ministry to the visually impaired, which entailed discussions with elders and preachers, educators and other key leaders in the city of Bulawayo and in the outlying communities. One highlight of the trip was meeting a lady who has lost her sight to macular degeneration. Despite this challenge, this lady cares for eight orphans, cooks over an open fire, and walks independently in areas she is familiar with. The doctor was able to give her some vitamins which will slow the progression of the disease, but there is no cure. I showed her some of the daily living skills which Glynn uses to dress himself and to function at meal times and when cooking.



Ann gives instructions on walking with stick.



Ann shows blind lady how to pour without spilling.



Through an interpreter, Ann makes practical suggestions.

The dedication of the people we encountered and their resilience in the face of hardship is truly inspiring and encouraging. Their overwhelming hospitality and kindness to strangers was most uplifting. We hope and pray for the Gospel to continue to be spread throughout this nation and for economic and social progress in Zimbabwe.

FINANCIAL NEWS

A congregation that has helped us for many years is changing the focus of their mission effort. Their support went from \$7200 last year to \$5,000 this year, and drops to \$2,000 next year, before completely ending in 2015. We are also waiting to hear how large the cut will be from another congregation. Several people who normally help with our personal support every quarter or so, have not been in touch. We are actively looking for replacement support and ask that you be on the lookout as well.

FAMILY NEWS

Andre wrote and defended his dissertation for a Master's degree in 3D modeling in the UK. He will return to the US, God willing, if he can't find a job in Europe. Elise is well and still enjoys hair dressing. Ann certainly found the mission trip to Zimbabwe interesting, enlightening, and informative.

Times that make lasting memories can be rare, but one of them happened when we had a wonderful week's visit from Sally Bowers! She plays and sings many Irish Ballads, and one of her lifelong dreams was to visit this country. She is a dear friend, wonderful Christian, and is of tremendous help in editing and getting this newsletter to you. It was a real joy to have her and to show her a part of this beautiful island nation, and we do hope she can come again. For thirteen years here in Ireland, we lived out of a 12 x 36 foot mobile home, but now have a base which allows us to come and go more freely and to accommodate visitors with a bit more comfort.

Thank you for your continuing help; we could not bring Christ's message of salvation to others without it! May our Lord use each of us as instruments and tools for The Kingdom.

in Christ,

Glynn and Ann Langston