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July, August, September 2008

Insight International Braille Outreach Worldwide

Please consider this ministry in estate planning.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ,

Because so many of you have very kindly shown concern for our family during the two recent hurricanes, I am changing the order of topics in this quarterly letter, to give you a brief update on the situation. We thank God that you care enough to phone, write, and to express your support in other ways as well. There is also much ministry news.

HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE

Over the Labor Day holiday, hurricane Gustav did minor damage to our property. Because we use a well pump and have a home sewage treatment plant, we purchased a generator after hurricane Katrina. While this generator worked well, the motors in the treatment plant went out and had to be replaced at a cost of \$1800. Our neighbor's house was severely impacted when they lost their roof and flooding made their house uninhabitable! Around 20 people sheltered in our home and office the first night after the storm. For the next ten days or so, the neighbors lived in part of my office. At the suggestion of the insurance adjuster, they found an apartment in Lafayette, during the several months it will take to repair their home. These people are wonderful neighbors from an extended Vietnamese family. They do much of the work on the house themselves, and Ann helps when she can, by keeping their children, providing laundry facilities, and other needed services. Please pray that God will use us as His instruments to help bring them to Christ.

Some of you know that my parents live in the small town of Kemah, on Galveston Bay. This area was hit hard by hurricane Ike, which visited the region two weeks after Gustav. Mom and dad evacuated to friends in Houston, but when power outages, the heat, and other problems made their situation difficult, they made the four hour journey through police, responder traffic, and debris, arriving safely at our house late Sunday afternoon, 14 September. Of course we were delighted to have them, and are relieved that they are safe and comfortable with us. I missed these two storms, as I was still traveling, speaking and teaching, but was able to keep in close touch with the family via computer, email, Skype, and phones. Thanks to the modern marvel of streaming via the internet, I was actually able to listen to radio and television stations in the areas affected by the two hurricanes, live as it was being transmitted. As I write this, it has been well over a week, and there is still no power, water, sewage, or landline phone in the area where mom and dad live. Many businesses are either completely gone, or are severely damaged from seawater or wind. The Kemah boardwalk is no longer there! God has protected us through these disasters and we thank Him also for your prayers.

FINANCIAL NEWS

I place this topic at this point in this issue of the newsletter, as the situation is becoming critical. Would those of you who can, please send this to as many congregations and individuals as possible, in hopes that we can find Christians who are willing to help. As I have mentioned before, the congregational trust which pays our health insurance ends in May, 2010. Our deductible just went from five thousand fifty Dollars to five thousand six hundred Dollars, and I suspect that some rise in premiums will likely follow in the next three months. We are urgently looking for a group of churches and people who can help us meet this cost. We can't change companies now because of previous medical conditions. Your help makes this ministry possible, and also provides the needs of our family so I can devote full time to bringing God's Word to the blind in our world. Funding this growing ministry, finishing the children's education, mortgage payments, and trying to fund some sort of eventual retirement fund are all major concerns, so we thank God for your help.

Several of you have asked if we have a PayPal account, and I finally have one set up. If my understanding is correct, you can go to PayPal and access this account by using my name and email address, which is, insightbow@aol.com. This website can now be used for those who wish to contribute to this ministry from time to time.

The Newsletter is now available by email, please email Glynn at insightbow@aol.com or Greg at gregorypalmer@cox.net and request your name to be added to the email list.

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MINISTRY NEWS

The Bible camps for the blind are going very well in India, and I am waiting for news that several more people who are studying God's Word, have obeyed the Gospel. Your help funds these camps, and provides Bibles in Braille, cassette, and CD in the various languages of that nation. Of course we send the scriptures to many countries, and have been most encouraged that people have become Christians in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Ireland.

The following is from an email, regarding our provision of some of the books of the Bible in Arabic Braille. These volumes were brought to Damascus, Syria, and now we are being asked to obtain the scriptures in Braille for blind Iraqi people. Each volume of Braille must be hand carried. The following two testimonials express appreciation for this ministry:



"Just a quick note of praise. As we had prayed, God provided the exact person in Syria for the Bible. He is a blind man, a relative to Nawal from Mandeanean background. He got one of the books and the church was so excited to see the Arabic Bible in Braille and wanted the other two books and promised to use them in Iraq. Praise God for His provision.

In His service,

Brian & Nawal Picard"



Here is another extract from an email from a wonderful Christian lady who received one of the large print Bibles we provide.

"Dear Brother Glynn,

I wanted to let you know that I received my Bible a few days ago.. The size print is wonderful! I am able to read without using a magnifying glass. I am so excited about receiving them I have already begun reading, and used Hebrew for our Sunday School Class yesterday. My husband is making me a cabinet to keep all the books in, so they will be readily available for me. When I first opened the box, I was so excited to be able to read. It makes me want to share them with others Again I want to thank you for your service in helping me to obtain the books.



I cannot say enough about reading your article in the, The Christian Chronicle. It was wonderful to read and hear about the work you are doing. Your response was quick, and I needed to talk with someone with eye problems. It seems like people do not know how to deal with a person with low vision I wish I had known about you in 2006 and early 2007, before having all of my surgeries."

A few of you have seen the small, electronic Bibles we are now sending in English. Two complete Bibles are contained in each unit, about the size of a deck of playing cards. When I demonstrated these Bibles to blind people in Ireland, several people asked for them, and several requests have come in from the United Kingdom as well. Because most of these blind people have very limited exposure to God's Word, I send a CD with each Bible, explaining why we believe the scriptures, why Jesus, and how to study your Bible. When we receive a request for the next series of lessons, they are sent, and this method keeps us in contact with those who receive these Bibles.

FAMILY NEWS

Ann's left hand continues to heal, following the lawnmower accident on 27 May, in which she lost three of the tips of her fingers. She is driving again, but must still have regular therapy to try and regain the strength in the injured hand. So far the checkups following the Melanoma operations she had in October show no further spreading, and we are thankful for this.

I have recently had some trouble with my right eye. Calcium deposits flake off and cut into the eye. This can be quite painful, and I hope that I will not need an operation to remove these deposits. The last surgery to correct this problem was around 1981. The procedure is quite painful, and I hope other treatments will be successful.

Elise loves the hair dressing courses she is taking. The classes are for one year. Andre is at last doing courses in graphic design which he enjoys. He has many hours of lab work each week, but likes all the drawing.

In closing, I thank you for all your petitions to our father on our behalf. Traveling to publicize this ministry is enjoyable, but can really be tiring. On the other hand, traveling to try and keep ministry and family funds raise is not only exhausting, but I do not enjoy this aspect of this ministry. Please pray about these matters. May our Lord strengthen, guide, comfort and bless each of you.

In Christ's love, and with thanks,

Glynn, Ann, Andre, and Elise Langston