



Lighthouse Missionary Outreach

Over a decade of ministry to the children of the Caribbean

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David & Debbie Goodrum - Directors

Fall 2005

Newsletter

"He's An On Time GOD"



Debbie helping to feed the homeless

Ever feel like God waits until the 'last minute' to make things happen in your life? I do. All the time! Take this past year: we tried so hard to complete our boat repairs and get our house sold so we could return to the mission field, this time for a long time! But over and over again things would come up and, well, here we are, finally down to [we hope] just a few weeks left before setting sail.



Here we are, one of our many work days on *Ephe*, dreaming of sailing to the mission field.



So, did God mess up the timing or were we just getting a bit ahead of Him? Let's see. What has happened that would not have happened had we gotten our way instead of Him getting His? For one, we have teamed up with several new ministries opening important doors for much needed supplies. We've also entered into fellowship with a number of churches who have expressed a desire to assist our work. And have also had lots of opportunities to minister to and encourage many of God's people. Our cargo holds are filled with clothing, Bibles, medical goods, and more, all collected by the new churches in our lives. And I should not forget to include the outdoor services Debbie and I participated in for the homeless. No, I don't think God messed up the timing at all!



David preaching to the street people

We must strive to never forget that "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28) I have never understood that scripture to say that the 'good' always has to be for me! To the contrary, many times what occurs in my life is God working through me for someone else's sake. And if I'm here to serve Him, then whatever purpose He may have is just fine with me!!

And about this "last minute" thing. If the God who created the universe (putting billions of heavenly bodies into perfect motion, so carefully timed that all the galaxies perform like a ballet of perfect syncopation) decides something is to be done - it is neither the 'last minute'...nor even the 'first minute'...it is the only minute!!

Keep us in your prayers as Debbie and I set sail for Central America [yes, in the middle of hurricane season], to be where He wants us, when He wants us. After all, as the popular Gospel song so well says: "He's an on-time God, yes, He is" !!

Some of the medical supplies, clothing, Bibles and teaching materials, toys, computers & more that was donated by area churches for us to carry to Honduras and Guatemala this month.



Whenever we feel a little overwhelmed with all of our boatwork, we only have to remember that **Noah** worked **120 years** on the **Ark**! While packing this week, Debbie found the following article, sound advice for us all:

"All I need to know I learned from Noah's Ark"

1. Don't 'miss the boat'.
2. Remember, we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah started working.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old you may be asked to do something really **big**!!
5. Don't listen to critics. Get the job done **now**!
6. For safety's sake - travel in pairs.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage: the snails were on board along with the cheetahs.
8. When you're stressed - float awhile.
9. Remember: the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
10. No matter how bad the storm - when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting when your troubles have ended!!


















Special Thanks to all who have given through gifts and
 
 prayers for the success of this ministry. But especially to our
 
 'faithful few' whose monthly support means so much, which
 
 support is very important now as we 'spread our wings' to
 
 journey further into the heart of the needy nations of Central
 
 America and the Caribbean. A sincere thank you as well to
 
 the many churches who have allowed me to minister in their
 
 pulpits and prayer meetings. God bless you all !!
 

"Give 'Til It Hurts"

I've heard this doctrine of "Give til it hurts" taught in one form or another most of my thirty-three years as a Christian, usually with the intent of persuading the unwary to empty their pocketbooks or 'max-out' their credit cards for the benefit of some crafty preacher. How sad that we the faithful can be so gullible! Whatever happened to the Gift of Discernment [1Cor 12:10] by which we should readily spot a "wolf in sheep's clothing" fleecing the flock of God!

So foolish some of us are to believe that we can 'buy' a blessing, as though our money would prove something to God that His searching eyes have not already seen in our hearts. Too many times I've heard cries from pulpits, "Put your money where your mouth is" or "Show God how much you really want that prayer answered by leaving your largest bill on the altar." There is not one scripture that I know of where God says, "If you pay me enough I will bless you." God doesn't want our money, He wants our loyalty and love!

Was it not a sorcerer named Simon who thought it possible to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit? [Acts 8] Though he had been converted and baptized, his unhealthy fascination with the miraculous [v.13] led him to try to solicit from Peter that which only God Himself gives. The apostle's rebuke, "...thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money...thy heart is not right in the sight of God." [v.20,21], should be a sobering caution to us all.

There is, however, a "sacrifice" that is acceptable to God, one that softens his heart and opens His ears to our cries. The psalmist David stated plainly, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." [Psa 51:17] Consider also these words from the Lord found in Isaiah:

"Behold, ye fast for strife and debate... Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? [But rather] Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, "Here I am." [58:4-9]

It is not what we give but our reason for giving that seems to be of the greatest importance. The disciples were promised a hundred-fold return because that which they had lost as an act of their service to God was in unselfish earnest to better achieve loftier purposes, not as a bartering arrangement by which they could profit at God's expense. Read the full account carefully [Mk 10:28-30] and ask yourself if what you placed into that Sunday morning plate is anything to be compared to what these faithful men had done.



From house to camper - still moving forward!!

"He must increase, but I must decrease"

John the Baptist (Jn 3:30)



Debbie and I have just sold our home, which was an investment towards our retirement. We had to because the complications of keeping it while trying to serve fulltime in the mission field had interrupted our last several trips, cancelling altogether our relief effort to hurricane damaged Haiti. However noble and necessary, it was not easy to give up something that had given us so much pleasure. It's replacement, our little 18' trailer, will no doubt carry us to new adventures and new opportunities for ministry, but that does not soften the experience of 'giving' at this 'level'.

This introduces another principle of giving, the true meaning of "til it hurts": the best gift that we can give comes from the deepest passion of our hearts. Cain did, indeed, labor quite hard to produce his offering of fruit and grains, but it was Abel's 'love offering', a tender lamb for which he must have had affection, that found acceptance and "respect" of the Lord. [Gen 4:4] And it was Abraham, by not keep even his own son from the Almighty, who received his greater blessing. I am reminded also of King David who, in preparing a sacrifice to atone for his rebellion, refused Ornan's offer for the free use of his threshingfloor and grain saying, "Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will...not offer burnt offerings without cost." [1 Chronicles 21:24]

While sitting in church services, as collections are being taken to help our mission work, I have often wondered how different it would all appear to God if, instead of taking from our pockets what is emotionally barely more than green paper, we were instead laying at His feet our favorite golf clubs, or turning off all those extra cable channels and donating that amount to reach the world. Remember, the widow with her two mites gave more: not because of what it could do, but because of what it cost her. ["...all the living that she had." Lk 21:3] It must hurt, at least a little, to be a sacrifice!

-David A. Goodrum

Ephesians is for sale!! We need to sell our first mission boat to help pay off the balance owed on our new trimaran. She is a very special boat and will give someone a lot of



pleasure. If you know anyone who may be interested please suggest that they call us at 910-200-8065 (leave a message). The price

will be very reasonable, especially to anyone who may wish to use her for the ministry.

Can you help us?

We have been serving the Caribbean during the past twelve years, ministering to children through our 'Children's Crusades', and providing training for pastors, teachers, and youth workers. We also reach many boating families from around the world, and carry medical supplies & clothing to needy nations. Ours is a faith supported ministry relying on love offerings and personal gifts for our support. We have a special need right now for a video projector for showing the Jesus film and training videos. Thank you for any help you can give us towards this project, and for our expenses as we sail onward for Jesus... *David & Debbie Goodrum*

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