



Lighthouse Missionary Outreach

Seventeen years serving the Caribbean & Central America

David & Debbie Goodrum - Directors



Fall 2008 Newsletter



After several years devoted to Central America we are once again sailing south into the Caribbean on an errand of mercy in the aftermath of hurricane Ike. The map on the left shows where we have traveled so far [red dots] and where we plan to go [blue ones] We departed from our 'home port' (Surf City, NC, #1), ministered in Charleston, SC (#2) and are now at Amelia Island, Fla. (#3) where our engine is being overhauled and we are working on a variety of boat repairs. From here we will enter the Bahamas at Bimini (#4), visit churches on Andros Island (#5), then make our best time to the Turks & Caicos Islands (#6) where Ike made a direct hit destroying or damaging 80% of the homes and businesses. Afterwards we will spend time in Dominican Republic (#7) where we will be delivering a boatload of Bibles and supplies (including clothing, toiletries, puppets, and a 4kw generator). Some of these will be transported into Haiti. Our return will be again through the Bahamas (#8) where we will have opportunities to minister to boaters from all-over the world, conduct our Children's Crusades, and present our new Evangelism Seminar [see article on back]

The journey so far has not been an easy one [some of you who know us are probably thinking 'Has it ever been?'] as we made our way to Florida without an engine!! There were several storms along the way (one with winds over 60mph - see photo to right) and some close calls as we had to navigate through some bridges using only a tiny outboard and a lot of prayer. We sailed all the way, both the intracoastal waterway and offshore. And now that we are here we have our trimaran *Faith* anchored above a shallow bar so that at low tide it is completely out of the water. This enables us to work on the sides and bottom. The photos below show our 'progress' despite the changes of weather we have 'endured' since we arrived. With record-breaking cold right now it has been especially difficult. Someone asked, "Just what's it like to be on your boat in these conditions?" Well, think of an old wooden shack, drafty with no heater, perched over the water in full exposure to the wind and...well, you get the idea. But then, we've seen what some people in this world have (or don't have) for a home and believe me - we are truly blessed!! And oh, how anxious we are to get to the field again and bring hope and help to them. Please keep us in prayer, that we can get finished soon and be on our way again for Jesus !!!



As you can see, it gets cold in North Florida, too!

Thank you Bill & Kimi Crumbley and their business B&K Diesel for donating our engine repairs!



Welcome Aboard!!



We are so thankful for the new churches and families that the Lord has sent our way, who share our vision for missions and have committed to assist us through prayer and financial help. Please keep the following ministries on your prayer list and visit their websites. If you can,

Chapel By The Bay
216 Michigan Ave Surf City, NC
www.chapelbythebay.com



Harvest Christian Fellowship Church
2505 Washington Pike Knoxville, TN
www.harvestrocmin.org

Heritage Holiness Church
3836 Ladson Rd Ladson, SC
www.heritageholiness.org



Our very special appreciation to Mike and Beth Kane, not only for their support of our ministry but for Beth's assistance as secretary for Lighthouse Missionary Outreach while we travel.

A new 'crew member' joined our family this summer. Grace Ann, born to daughter Merideth, making five grandbabies we'll be leaving behind during this mission trip.



We have a new address!! Please see bottom of next page. Also, visit our website for many pictures and stories from this and our other mission trips!!

Michael's Miracle

In our last newsletter we explained that our mission trip had to be cut short due to engine failure. At least we thought that was the only reason for returning to North Carolina. Instead we arrived just in time for our new granddaughter's birth!



But the joy of her arrival was not the only reason the Lord had us back in North Carolina. My 24 year old son, Michael, had been experiencing strange symptoms during his first year as a new transfer student at Chapel Hill. He had gone from being an honor student to failing his classes due to headaches, inability to concentrate or remember, tremors in his writing hand, and loss of control of his right leg. Since he had not been saying much about it, I had no idea he was having such a difficult

time. Doctors in Wilmington could find nothing wrong even though the symptoms continued to progress, with nausea setting in as well. When he finally did get to see a doctor on his campus, a second MRI was done and this one showed a golf ball sized tumor in his cerebellum (God knew that he needed to be in the care of the best that this area has to offer!) They called Michael and told him to report to the hospital immediately for scheduled surgery on April 1st.

So many people have commented to us on how much faith we must have to sail out to foreign countries and be alone in the vast ocean in all kinds of weather. But I think that that is nothing compared to the challenge of knowing your child (even if he is a grown man) is facing such a risky surgery! The surgeon explained that there would be no hope of removing the entire tumor since part of it was attached to his brainstem.

But God was in control and Michael came though that surgery with only extreme grogginess from so much anesthesia. The pathology

report was not so encouraging, however, showing a very aggressive stage-four cancer called meglioblastoma. The surgical team looked at the MRI taken after the surgery and felt that they should try to remove even more of the tumor. What! Another surgery! Yes, and ten days later they repeated the operation!

As I sat in church before returning to the hospital for the second surgery, I felt God say to me that if I would just have faith in Him, it would all be ok. But how do you know if you have enough faith for such an important prayer?

April 10th arrived and this time even the anesthesiologist had been praying for Michael! My son awoke from the second surgery, alert and even able to eat [hamburgers!] while still in the intensive care unit! What a blessing!! The nurse told us that she had never seen a surgical team so excited and happy because the post-surgery MRI showed that there was NO PART OF THE TUMOR REMAINING!! The surgeon explained that the tumor, which was previously attached to the brainstem, had miraculously dislodged and was easily removed completely! Yes, God does answer prayers!!

It is now several months since the surgery and Michael has completed the required radiation therapy, continuing to improve daily. It is so hard for me to leave him behind as we begin our next journey, but God is restoring Michael's health and there is even a possibility that he may be able to join us for a brief portion of our mission trip.

Allowing God to determine the timing and direction of our journeys is really easier, even through storms and dangerous seas, than to relinquish one's child into the hands of surgeons with the faith that God will guide and control the outcome. But always know that even when the facts are not in



New Soul Winning Seminar

David had the opportunity to develop and present a new seminar this summer called "Making Personal Evangelism Personal" It placed special emphasis on sharing one's faith with family and friends, those we care most about but find the most difficult to reach!



The response was very good from the churches who hosted the seminar and we hope more churches will invite us share this wonderful study when we return from our mission trip next Spring. We will also be doing the seminar throughout the islands.



About to leave boatyard

Ephie - Back to the Sea

It has been a 'labor of love' over many years but our other mission boat, *Ephesians 2:8,9*, has finally made it 'home' to the water again. There are still some cosmetic chores to be done inside but it is our hope that we can complete them after this current mission trip. Hundreds of hours of hard work in sometimes very unpleasant conditions became a kind of 'test of faith' for us but we hope now that another ministry will consider her so she may continue in the master's service. To know more about *Ephie* please visit this page on our website:

www.sailingservant.org/ephepromo.htm

Ephesians anchored next to our trimaran *Faith* just before the 'three of us' rode out hurricane Hannah together. The Lord gave me peace through the night and, as the song says, the 'anchor holds'!!



Special thanks to all our friends at First Pentecostal Holiness of Wilmington, NC for the two folding bicycles that will be a great help in the mission field! Their special aluminum wheels and large luggage racks are made-to-order for 'sailing missionaries'!!

Can You Help Us?

We are full time missionaries, serving the Caribbean and Central America for the past seventeen years. We train pastors and youth workers, reach young people through Children's Crusades, minister to boating families from around the world, and use our sailboat to carry Bibles, literature, and medical /relief supplies to needy nations. Ours is a faith supported ministry relying on offerings and personal gifts. We are especially in need of monthly pledges so we can plan to serve farther away destinations. Thank you for any help you can give us and, most of all, for your prayers!! - David & Debbie Goodrum

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