



Lighthouse Missionary Outreach

Seventeen years serving the Caribbean & Central America



Our sailboat, Faith

Spring 2008 Newsletter

In His 'Stops'

There is a very well known Christian novel, In His Steps, which tells of a group of believers who commit to making every decision, performing every task, exactly as they perceive Jesus would have done. Call it the original 'WWJD' (*What Would Jesus Do*), long before the expression became tokenized by bracelets and bumper stickers. And such an important idea it is - to follow carefully in His footsteps as we trust Him to guide us along our way ('Where He leads me I will follow'.) But what about the times when the 'footprints' in the 'sand' seem to fade for a while and the path becomes uncertain? Or on those occasions when they appear to have halted altogether, going nowhere?

A devotional I read some years ago made this statement: "Not only are the 'steps of a righteous man ordered by the Lord' but so are his stops." The point the lesson was trying to make is that there are those times and seasons when God will bring us to a stand still to accomplish something in us or through us [call it 'pause with purpose'] that He could not do if we maintained the usually hurried pace of our lives. Sometimes we have to stop before He can get something done!



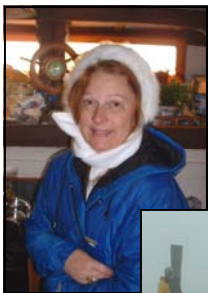
When our dinghy went adrift, David had to go after it in this tiny inflatable boat. Windy, but at least it was downwind!

The most important thing we can do is to know the Lord better. Psalms 46:10 begins with "Be still and Know that I am God...", as though saying that, to be able to take in all the fullness of His glory, we must "...stand in awe of Him." [Psa 33:8; also 4:4] Taking a 'time-out' every so often, if only to refresh our vision of Him and His will in us, is something hard working believers hesitate to do. After all, the "...harvest is plenteous and the laborers few". But even Jesus withdrew on occasion from the desperate crowds to find solace in solitary places, reaffirming the Father's pleasure in him.

Perhaps this was the Lord's plan for Debbie and me during the past couple of months. We had stocked our boat full with supplies and 'Christian cargo' [see article that follows] and set out from North Carolina to begin yet another mission trip to the Caribbean. But the journey was met with continuous setbacks, both bad weather and mechanical breakdowns. Each of our 'stops' did open doors for new relationships and ministry opportunities, but the most important blessings came because of our resolve to not be 'defeated', no matter how difficult each new trial.



Trevor and Gwen with their boat *Estrel*, one of several boats David 'rescued' that had gotten into trouble during this winter's harsh conditions. Besides pulling them to safety David was able to assist with minor repairs while sharing our faith.



Deb dressed for our many cold mornings

However, when our engine failed completely and the arrival of our newest grandchild was now just around the corner Debbie and I finally gave in to the necessity of returning home (under sail without a motor.) And not without disappointment! It had been a bitterly cold and trying experience, and there were so many worthy things we had hoped to accomplish. But as we now reflect upon it all, remembering the lives we had touched and, more importantly, the ways the Lord had touched our lives, it still remains a lesson we all must learn well - God knows what He's doing even when He seems to be doing nothing at all!



David bidding a 'foggy' farewell to one of the boats he helped rescue.



David in the rainsuit he had to wear every day because of the record colds. We even had ice over our bed some mornings!



David with grandchildren preparing to fly new kite. It was our first holiday with family in several years due to missionary travels. So, there was a silver lining after all for our many misfortunes!



Our new granddaughter, born just ten minutes after we arrived by car at the Georgia hospital. Quite a feat of perfect timing after having sailed for days from Charleston, SC without the help of an engine! Mother and child doing fine, and so are we - finally back and starting repairs.

Check out our website: www.SailingServant.org There we have photos and uplifting stories from our mission travels as well as back issues of newsletters and devotional articles on discipleship from a missionary's perspective. Please contact us about David's sermon CD's and to schedule us to speak at your church, prayer breakfast, Christian school or other event. [contact info is on the back]

Clean Out The Closets!!

When the Pine Valley Church of God of Wilmington, NC heard that we were preparing to depart again for the Caribbean, their mission representative Robert Register called us to say that they had some left-over Sunday School materials we might want to carry with us for churches in need along the way. But as we began going through storage rooms and other places where old and out-of-date supplies had 'come to rest' pretty soon we had a truck load of wonderful ministry tools such as puppets and puppet stage, sound equipment, books, tapes, CD's and much, much more. Most of it had been replaced by updated or upgraded materials as this church continues growing but, praise the Lord, these useful items were spared the trash pile where, sadly at many churches, supplies helpful to the mission field usually end up.



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If only more churches would consider how important so much that is discarded can be to those who have little or nothing (one man's trash is another man's treasure?) There is a principal of sharing that John the Baptist taught when he said, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." [Luke 3:11] I am always troubled by the knowledge that the average Christian family has many Bibles at home, many which are unused,



Thank you, Pastor Williford and Pine Valley Church of God

dusty and forgotten. We visit places in the mission field where there are no Bibles or, if they have them, in very poor condition. In the past we have collected Bibles to carry with us and found it to be so special, so personal, when you give a Bible to someone that still has dedication notes, birthdays and anniversaries written in. I even gave a Bible to a pastor that had sermon notes in it. When they fell out into his hand he said with a smile, "I guess I preach 'dis one 'dese Sunday, no?"

Rose Boyd of the Pentecostal Holiness Church of North Carolina has founded Operation Teaching Tools, a ministry which collects and distributes excess literature and supplies for the mission field. Most church organizations have a means to get necessary things to needy places. What they all depend upon is our good stewardship right here, in the local church and in our own homes, to not throw away but pass along, in that spirit of sharing, knowing that we will one day hear the Lord say to us, "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." [Mat 25:40]

Welcome Aboard



While we were riding out the cold winter and trying to do engine and other repairs in Calabash, NC, we decided to visit a little store-front church that seemed to have just the right name, "His House." (After all, if you're going to visit with the Father it should be His house you go to!) We had about a mile to walk from the waterfront but it was a pretty day, and when we began to approach the little shopping center where their church occupied the end unit some of the members out front started waving with great enthusiasm. We waved back and



Debbie and me with the pastor and his 'flock' outside after morning service

thought, "Wow! What a friendly church!" Turns out that, from the distance, we appeared like some other visitors they were expecting. Nevertheless, we did feel the warmest welcome!

A most special greeting, however, came from Pastor Jim Burns, who explained that their young church had intended to participate deeper in missions in the new year but, not being part of a denomination, had

been seeking the Lord's guidance on where to "find" missionaries. On the morning he hoped to announce their new year's plan he, as yet, had no "leads"! But then, in walks these two strangers who introduce themselves as "sailing missionaries" (of all things!) Needless to say we, who have been anxiously praying for increased support for 2008 for all the long range mission goals we have, were as elated as they that God, in His always perfect providence, had us right there that very morning.



Me telling one of our many sailing stories to Pastor Jim

Keep Pastor Jim and the whole family of His House Church in your prayers as they step forward in expansion plans that will enable this small group of faithful souls to meet a wide range of needs in their special corner of southeast North Carolina. Visit their website: www.hishousechurch.com to learn more about their innovative ministry. Welcome Aboard -His House Church - for your pledge of support and prayers for the success of our missionary work.

His House Church, along with some of their members, have been sponsoring some very precious orphans in India at the Daya Orphanage. With some charities, which are promoted in this country, being less than 'efficient' or 'effective', benefitting organizers more than the children, it is encouraging to know that such a worthy ministry exists in which you can make such an impact on so many little lives! Please take a look at their website: www.dayaindia.org/index.html and get involved yourself.



Contact us for information about other mission projects that you or your church can participate in

Can You Help? We have been serving as full time missionaries to the Caribbean and Central America for seventeen years, training pastors and youth workers, reaching children through Children's Crusades, ministering to boating families from around the world, and using 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 serve farther away destinations. Thank you for any help you can give us. *David & Debbie Goodrum*

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We bought this tiny 18ft trailer for living in while ministering to churches away from the coast after our mission trips. It is too small, however, so we are praying that the Lord will provide one that is lightweight in the 24ft to 30ft range. Perhaps you have one or know of one that is not being used, and would consider making a donation or sell it at a sacrificial price for the Lord's work. *Please contact us!!*