

# First Step Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

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## RHEMA Germany / Busy Busy Busy

Watch for an incredible story of God's provision in next month's issue.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas

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October and November continued to be a very busy with very long days. At the same time it has been very productive with lots of challenges, opportunities and blessings.

The Rhema office is going through a lot of changes right now that will bring many operational improvements. One of the greatest needs has been in the computer department". We needed additional workstations. Up to a few weeks ago, we had up to six people trying to use three working computers.

To help the situation, I decided to donate my personal desktop computer to the ministry so we could increase the number of workstations. It moved with me from the States but since most of my work has been done on my laptop I could work without it. Besides it was time to put some "electronic seed in the ground". Recently Rhema was able to purchase one more new workstation

and add it to the network, that has been a blessing. Rhema now has a have a total of five working computers.

The computer "department" has a high priority in order to more effectively use the staff and volunteers. Once we get some technical and operational issues improved, I'll start to seriously focus on the planning and strategy effort. In the mean time, we have increased and reorganized the volunteers, implemented End of the Month Reports and are creating job descriptions. Additionally, I am teaching one of the staff on how to "sell" the bible school and increase our enrollment.

One major goal for the bible school next year is to have fifty-five first year students enrolled for the class of 2005 / 2006. This is going to be quite a stretch of faith but I truly believe we can do it or come very close to it. The key is to start the planning steps now.

Many of our new students come from Non-European Union countries which have many stringent Visa requirements to meet.

Overall, things are progressively moving forward.

My First Step Ministries, Inc. is on temporary hold until the Rhema work settles down a little bit more.

I am hopeful that in January, 2005, I will be able to pick up on some of the FSM projects again, especially the Kid's Prayer Power project.

### Thank You

**I want to thank the new supporters that have come on-board this month. Some have given in specific areas of support and some general support.**

**Because of the shrinking Dollar against the Euro, the increase in support has helped reduce the affect of loss of purchase power.**

**All support is welcome and I can not do this with your help.**

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

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### Donation Information

First Step Ministries, Inc.

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## "Jealous" Camera

You may have noticed that I did not include any photos in this newsletter. There is a "funny" reason. One of my on-going "duties" while I have been in Germany has been to be the "staff photographer" for Rhema Germany.

My little Minolta "Point & Shoot" digital camera has done an okay job but it has its limitations. I have been believing God for a new "real" digital SLR camera and currently the "best and the hottest" on the market, a Nikon D 70.

About a month ago, one of our church members happened to buy this camera and I was able to try it out. He loaned it to me for week to shoot pictures at one of our conferences. It exceeded my expectations.

But I think my little Minolta got jealous of the Nikon. After the conference, I tried to use the Minolta right after having the Nikon and the Minolta just quit on me. I've "apologized" to it for my lack of "faithfulness" but it doesn't seem to want to forgive me. So it is going off to the repair shop to be fixed.

## Electronic Challenges

It seems that electronics seem to be the current challenge. During November, my hard drive acted up twice for no apparent reason. It could be that the hard drive is getting tired after running nearly non-stop for two and half years.

Never-the-less, it added to the delays of getting out two different newsletters, one for October and then one for November and the reason for combining them in this issue. Calling Dell Tech Support got the lost boot up files recovered and able to bring the hard drive back, thank God. But I think the computer is "telling me something", so it is time to backup often everything important. Don't we love computers.



**Hope Everyone Had a Wonderful Thanksgiving**

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