



First Step Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

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What's Up?

A Review of Activities: Past, Present & Future

Hi Everyone,
 Hope everyone had a terrific summer.
 This issue will catch you up on the past, present and future FSM events.

We truly live in an exciting period of world history in the making. Jesus is coming soon.
 Blessings,
 Larry

Rhema Germany August 2004 - January 2006

During this time you might remember that I was working with Rhema Germany as the ministry's non-paid administrator for the church and bible school. During the last seven months of that time, administering Rhema Europe was added to my responsibilities. Rhema Europe is an association of the both Rhema alumni and churches located in Europe.

Faith Minister's Conference – Laax, Switzerland – April 2006

This was my second time to attend this conference and I really didn't want to miss it. There are only about one hundred ministers in attendance but the Holy Spirit shows up to minister to all of us. In 2004, I was blessed and had the same expectation going this year and it was fulfilled. Again this year the conference provided a scholarship to pay my lodging and meal expenses. That too was a real blessing.

More importantly blessings can come not only from receiving but also being able to minister to other missionaries that are attending. It is a wonderful time with God.

Mini-Sabbatical – April – July 2006

After returning to Bonn, I entered into a mini-sabbatical. While traveling in the United States I mentioned to my supporters that I needed some time to just stop and hear God's next plan for me. Despite being tired from all the stateside travel, jet lag and the previous eighteen months of non-stop work, I found it hard to sit still

FUTURE OPEN DOORS

BESIDES THE JANUARY TRIP TO THAILAND YOU CAN READ ABOUT IN THIS ISSUE, TWO MORE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES HAVE OPENED FOR ME, ONE FOR KUWAIT AND THE OTHER UGANDA. THE UGANDA TRIP WOULD BE FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AND KUWAIT MUCH LESS. BOTH OF THESE WOULD BE TO PREACH AND SHARE ABOUT THE KID'S PRAYER PROGRAM AND ANYTHING ELSE THE LORD WOULD PUT ON MY HEART FOR THEM.

AT THIS TIME I AM NOT SURE WHEN THESE TRIPS WILL HAPPEN, SO FOR NOW, IT IS JUST PRAY AND SEEK DIRECTION. THERE IS A "THOUGHT" THAT I COULD STOP IN KUWAIT ON MY WAY TO THAILAND.

MY ONLY CONCERN IS THE LENGTH OF THE OVERALL TRIP IF I ADD A STOP IN KUWAIT. BECAUSE OF ALL THE WORK PLANNED IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA OF THAILAND, I WILL NEED FOUR WEEKS THERE ALONE.



long enough to hear the Holy Spirit. Quiet finally came and progress was being made. I won't bore you with all the details but jump to near the end of my quiet time.

During this time of prayer, fasting and reading, I felt compelled to read about some of the old men and women of God. For weeks, I had been asking God, what do you want me to do next? Start the children's program? Do something else? Move some where else? I didn't want to miss God so asking was important. Then there was a moment when I was reading about an old man in the faith, Norm Grubb. He lead the group, Worldwide Evangelization

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The Kid's Prayer Program

When I finished at Rhema, it seemed like it was time to finally go forward with the Kid's Prayer program. I started working on the program but I seemed to "run into a wall". It felt like I was ahead of God's timing on starting the program even though this project had been in my heart and "on hold" a number of years.

Just Checking

Rather than push ahead, I decided to stop and pray about it. Sometimes it is just best to hold and assess where you are going, which is exactly what I did. Was there something else God wanted me to do before this. As it turned out, it was the correct thing to do at that moment.

A Slight Change in the Plan

At the beginning of this project I thought I was going to create 13 or 26 week mini-Sunday school lessons. But in the process of praying, I narrowed down the scope of the plan to focus on preaching Sunday sermons and Saturday seminars about the effectively utilizing the prayer potential in children.

Ultimately the program might end up a weekly Sunday school

program but by starting out on a smaller scale, this allows corrections, updates and growth without committing to the incredible expense of printed materials that will probably need to be updated and changed after gaining some experience using the program.

Build the Fire

It is important to start to build interest and acceptance of the concept with the pastors, parents and children's workers. Generally the children are more than enthusiastic and ready to go. Sometimes it's us "older folks" that have too much "information" and lack the child like faith in God of Him being able to use someone much "shorter and younger" to pray with Holy Spirit lead faith.

Right now, I am creating the program and sermons that will give a biblical justification of it. The next step is to start on a simple brochure to explain the goals and benefits. Be in prayer agreement for wisdom on how to get this done according to God's desire and plan.

Without any real effort on my part, The Lord has already opened a few church doors in The Netherlands. They are simply waiting for me to present the plan.

For the United States Too!!!

Just because I am working overseas, it doesn't mean that I wouldn't be excited to present the Kid's Prayer program in the U.S. If you think you or your church would be interested, let me know. Contact me at: Larry@FirstStepMinistries.Net or leave a voicemail at my U.S. phone number: 623-399-4668. Or you can also Skype me, just enter my contact name "azblake".

What is Skype?

The answer is Skype a program that uses VoIP. Voice over Internet Protocol to communicate over the Internet.

The simple answer is: A very cool way to talk or webcam with someone for free. It works best if you have a high speed internet connection and a headset with a boom mic. Go here to check it out:

www.skype.com

The Annual Trip Back to the States

10 March — 20 April 2006

This year's trip was the most challenging of all previous trips because of the amount of travel that was done in six weeks. I arrived in Phoenix as usual.

Off to the Northwest

A few days after my arrival, I was on my way to Astoria, Oregon to visit my youngest son William and his wife Stephanie. The sudden death of Shawn and William's grandfather, on their mom's side instantly changed everyone's travel plans.

Bill Van Zandt was the best father-in-law someone could ask for. He is missed but all of family knows that we will see him again in heaven.

William and Stephanie were still in Phoenix driving back to Astoria, as I arrived in Portland. I had a scheduled meeting with Pastor Bob Hill of Renewed Hope Ministries in Vancouver, Washington. He has a worldwide prophetic ministry and a heart for leadership and missions.

With all the changes in travel plans, I contacted my friends Eric and Denise Kliskey who live just outside of Seattle, to see if I could drop in on them. They graciously welcomed me and allowed me stay with them for a couple of nights until William and Stephanie arrived back in Astoria from their road trip from Phoenix.

It was great to visit with the Kliskey's and their children. We had a great time together and it was a blessing to see them. Some people's ministry gift is to "come through" in a crunch. This is clearly their gift.

(You might remember the Kliskey's name from a newsletter last year.

Last year they brought a team down from Seattle to work on my house in Scottsdale.)

A couple of days later, I drove down to Astoria to see William and Stephanie where we had a wonderful time together.

Back to Phoenix for a few days before flying to Florida to see my oldest son, Shawn, granddaughter Antonella and friends in various ministries. You can read the family details in another location of the newsletter.

Off to the Southeast

A trip back east isn't complete without seeing Grant and Emily Gray in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was great to see them and visit the Charlotte, NC area.

Nearby Charlotte, a ministry named JAARS is the aviation and technology support division for the worldwide mission's organization Wycliffe Bible Translators. Before leaving Germany, I made some appointments with some of the JAARS people to see how they do their support work in mission's aviation, technology and translations in remote locations.

From the southeast it was back across the country to Arizona for just a few days before departing Phoenix for Germany.

Returning to Germany via E n g l a n d

The question was could I get an outbound flight from Phoenix back to London and then Bonn, Germany. During the entire six

weeks in the States, my travel agent worked on ways to get a British Air flight back from Phoenix to London. There were only two options, leave less than a week after I arrived in Phoenix or leave late April and miss the annual Faith Minister's Conference in Switzerland. Neither was a real option. All the BA flights from Phoenix to London were booked. This was turning out to be an amazing challenge.

I finally ended up flying to Los Angeles International on a Southwest Airlines flight and departed LAX on-board a BA flight to London.

Business Class, REALLY?

Despite the challenge, God was looking out for me. Just before I boarded the flight at LAX, for some "unexpected reason" BA upgraded me to Business Class. It was amazing! I didn't ask. I didn't have the miles or the points to get an upgrade. It "just happened" right when I was boarding. It "might" have been a God thing. All I did for the first hour of the flight was praise God for His favor. I was so exhausted from the six weeks of travel I slept most of the way to London. And that was possible because in Business Class you have fully reclining seats. Glory!

Thank You, Lord



What's Up? A Review (Cont'd from Page 1)

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Crusade with 35 African missionaries during the 1930's.

Norm wrote something profound but something I had missed during my quiet time in the previous weeks. The Holy Spirit had cut him short during one of his prayer times when Norm was asking God repeatedly to meet his needs and the needs of the missionaries in Africa he was responsible for.

Norm said, the Holy Spirit spoke to him and asked him if he thought God was deaf. Norm replied no, he didn't think God was deaf. Then very clearly Norm said he heard in his spirit, then stop asking, stop talking and be quiet. Give God a chance to speak or answer you. He has already heard your requests. He knows your needs.

Well, this caught my attention. I had been in the "ask, ask, ask" mode for weeks. It stopped right then. Within a few days, I realized that my next project would be the kid's prayer program. A few days later, clarity came as to how to put it together and present it. It was amazing.

The scriptures say, "We have not because we ask not, or we ask amiss." It doesn't say, just keep on asking and asking and asking. At some point, you have to believe by faith, based on the Bible, that God heard your request and He is in process of fulfilling your request.

It took me some time to really appreciate the gift of being able to just be quiet. To just value the time, to think and meditate on the Word, praise and worship and of course be quiet and listen. My perspective changed completely when I began to realize that in the near future, I would look back and give anything to have some quality quiet time.

Future Events

"Time of Refreshing" Minister's Conference – Leysin, Switzerland – October 2006

In October, I will be attending a four day conference for missionaries only. The conference is by invitation only and will include missionaries from all denominations. It is a real blessing to be invited. The American group that organizes this retreat pays all your on site expenses. This will be an exciting time to meet other missionaries of all denominations from all over Eastern and Western Europe.

Upcoming Mae Sai, Thailand Trip – January 2007

God has opened a door for me to go to Thailand in January 2007. The trip would last at least four weeks. A German friend, Thomas Albrecht and his Burmese wife, Esther, operate an orphanage and vocational training programs in the Golden Triangle area of Northern Thailand. Currently, they have about a hundred children. Their goal is to get kids off the streets by teaching them a trade and having them learn how to do personal evangelism.

These children come from abandonment, neglect, street kids and children of prostitutes. The children of prostitutes run

a high risk of either entering into child prostitution or being sold as domestic servants.

They also started a ministry to teach the older children a trade so they can become self-sufficient. Recently a German master baker went to Thailand specifically to set up a training program and teach these teens how to bake. They recently opened their first store front bakery and are in production.

Thomas and I spoke the other day to design a plan for my trip there. It will be a combination of preaching and teaching in a nearby bible school, teach the kids about prayer and put on some seminars for the local pastors, children's workers and parents.

The local area pastors have little to no training but an open heart to learn and increase their effectiveness in their churches.

The Golden Triangle area of Northern Thailand is known for drug trafficking, human trafficking and child prostitution.



Newlyweds Thomas and Esther Albrecht. They lead the Hope For Life programs in Thailand. www.hopeforlife.net

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My Family Corner



(Lt.) Larry, the "XO, Executive Officer" and Antonella Blakeslee, the "Boswains Mate". It was a great day on the "S.S. Delta Queen"

(Rt.) Give "Fisher Girl" her Sponge Bob rod & reel and she is ready to go. Notice that when she removes the life vest, she is dressed for the dockside, "post fishing trip" party.



(Lt.) Shawn Blakeslee, "Captain" "SS Delta Queen" and his Boswains Mate



William and Stephanie Blakeslee in Astoria, Oregon. Happy and in love.



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