

**Summer 2007
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Sudan

'Going forth' in a new direction

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Genesis 17:1

Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

I never would have thought that we would ever end up in Sudan, Africa. This country has been about the furthest from my mind. But I guess God has not forgotten Sudan - and neither should we.

It was last November, just a day or two before we were to fly off on another Bible courier trip to China, that I received an email from Rumbek, Sudan inviting us to come for a few months to teach at a small Bible school there. My immediate reaction was...NO WAY! My focus has, and I assumed, always would be on supporting the underground Christians in China and Vietnam.

The invitation bugged the daylight out of me the whole time we were in Asia and by the time we got back home on Thanksgiving Day, I knew that this was more than just something that, if I ignored it long enough, it would go away. There was that uneasy, yet thrilling feeling that God was telling us to make a sharp turn in the direction we have become at ease traveling in.

We began by responding to the email. That put things in motion. Now, after months of preparation, Daisy and I will be leaving for Sudan on August 13. Daisy will be staying only one month so that she can be back home to teach 'Release Time for Christian Education' at the local public school. I will continue on in Sudan until October 21.

While at the school we will be teaching a verse-by-verse study through the books of Matthew, Acts, and Genesis. The students will also have homework which will include writing out a verse-by-verse commentary of what the Holy Spirit speaks to them personally on each of the remainder of the New Testament.

Sounds tough? It is! But the results are profound,

personal, and real! Rather than just getting a head full of Bible knowledge, our goal is to train the students to clearly and confidently recognize and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit - the Professor in the classroom of God's Word.

God challenged Abraham to 'walk before Him', not behind Him! That really changes the way we relate to God compared to simply 'following Him'.

Isaiah teaches that as we 'walk before God', He will speak to us, guiding us in the right way to go. It is critical then for us to confidently know His voice! How can we succeed in this journey of faith if we are unsure of his voice?

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

There almost seems to be a contradiction in how God intends for us to journey with Him through life. On one hand God tells Abraham to "walk before Me". On the other hand Jesus calls his disciples to "come follow Me".

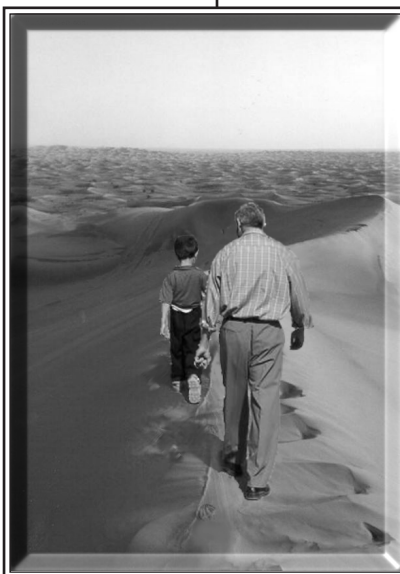
So who is in front of who? And who is following who?

I believe the answer is very simple. Real faith requires us to walk before God. It is very hard for me to understand what that looks like. Therefore, Jesus came to live out the example of what that is like. His call to follow Him is a call to follow is example of walking before God! He is teaching us by example what a life of real faith is like.

This journey of faith is not one of blindly groping through a labyrinth of chaos that life throws up at us. It is a journey that we can confidently travel with

full assurance that the One who loves us most is right there with us, guiding us step by step with words of direction and encouragement toward the destination and purpose we have been custom designed for.

Have you learned to clearly discern his voice?



A Journey with Jesus through
Christian Discipleship Training
An intense verse-by-verse study through the New Testament



August 20 - October 20, 2007
Rumbek, Sudan

Our Vision: to train believers to confidently recognize the voice of the Lord Jesus in their lives, enabling them to quickly 'hear and obey', having been built up with the bold faith needed to complete the work God has given each of us to do.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

THE STRATEGY..

INTENSE, DISCIPLINED BIBLE STUDY - GIVING RECOGNITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT as the 'teacher' in the classroom of the Word of God. Learning to identify his 'voice' in our daily lives.

"But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you." John 16:12-15

"My sheep know my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" John 10:27

TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD for fine tuning ministry skills.

"For I bear them record that they have a zeal, but not according to knowledge." Romans 10:2

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him..." 2 Peter 1:3

"But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25

TO DEVELOP PERSONAL HOLINESS through the 'washing of the Word', conditioning of the heart that correctly represents Jesus to the world.

"...make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.." Ephesians 5:26

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

"...without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

TO ACTIVATE FAITH to accomplish the work that the Lord assigns. Establish confidence in the faithfulness of the Lord to His promises through a personal relationship with him.

"...faith comes by hearing the message, the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

Bible Couriers needed for the upcoming trip to China and Hong Kong
November 10-24,2007

Ellie Martin will be co-ordinating this trip in our absence. See back page for more information.

(Please note that US passport processing is currently taking a longer time the normal 6 weeks. Apply for your passport NOW or pay the

THE CHALLENGE TO "MAKE DISCIPLES"

Launching believers into ministry through a disciplined Lifestyle of 'walking before God'!

Have you ever noticed how often Jesus' followers were given specific assignments from the Lord? Does the Holy Spirit ever want to speak to us in a specific way like that today? I believe the answer is, yes. So why is it then that Christians very often seem unfamiliar with 'His voice' when He speaks, thus hesitating in obedience and missing the windows of opportunity He brings to us?

Jesus said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Is there a difference between following Jesus in a personal way and following a set of doctrines about Jesus? Absolutely yes! But ...we must be careful to follow Him in both ways so that there is a check and balance that what we hear from Him on a personal level is in agreement His greater purposes. Still the question remains, how can we 'hear and obey' with confidence and decisive action when he speaks to us?

I believe that our ability to follow Him can be greatly enhanced by a lifestyle dedicated to a concentrated, disciplined relationship with Jesus Christ through maximum emphasis on tuning into the voice of the Holy Spirit, as the teacher and revealer of God's Word in the classroom of the Bible. This is accomplished by training and establishing the students in a lifestyle centered on God's Word itself, enabling them to journey through life with a close, personal, connection with the Lord Jesus Himself. This

is not something that can be added to a library of 'how to do it' tools. Rather, it is the necessary foundation for everything else God desires to create in a person.

Basically, our goal is to build up people in their relationship with the Lord Jesus so that they can have the confidence to go forward by faith, gifted by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the purpose God designed them for.

The main focus of this style of intense verse-by-verse Bible study is to activate Christians for ministry in both their local community as well as "in the uttermost parts of the earth". We would also like to conduct Bible studies on a mission field environment to provide a unique opportunity for short term, hands-on, mission field Bible training while introducing students of other cultures to the challenges of cross-culture ministry.

Though a person has a Bible and is reading it, if that person isn't hearing from the Holy Spirit and becoming familiar with His voice, or is always filtering the Word through other people's perspectives and experiences, then when the Lord does speak in a personal way to that person, obedience comes slowly or not at all. Why? Because God's message is overshadowed by doubts, fear, feeling unqualified, lack of faith, or lack of assurance of correctly understanding the Word. Thus, as I believe is often the case, there are many who are called into a ministry, but fail to truly enter in. What remains for them is a life of frustrated efforts based on copying other people's successes, not a joy-filled life of traveling with Jesus on a journey towards accomplishing His personal plan for that individual.

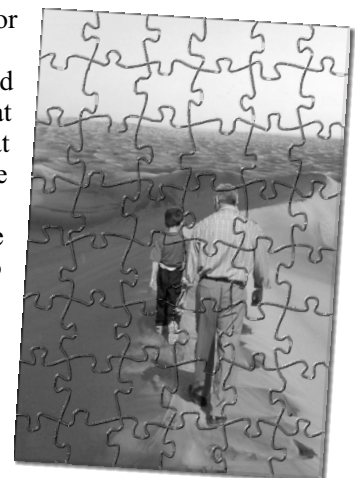
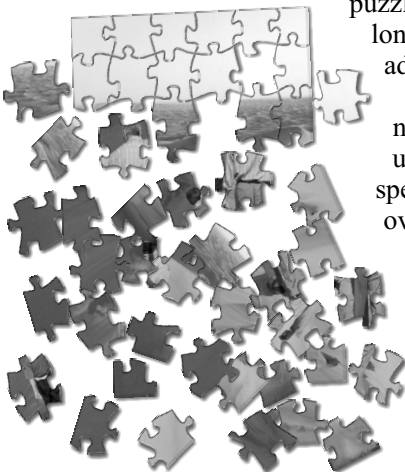
"...faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:17

All too often students of the Bible only get large doses of 'topical study'. This is focused study of a specific Biblical subject, denominational doctrine, or method of ministry, etc. It's like taking a piece of a puzzle and studying it intensely for a period of time. Not a bad thing - as long as it is in line with God's word and not distorted by tradition or adjusted to fit church political design.

The problem is, many students only get topical studies and never get around to putting the puzzle together. They have a great understanding of how each piece looks and may be skilled in that specific study. But there is confusion when it comes to seeing the overall big picture.

So it is with God's Word. We must have the goal of seeing the big picture, not only isolated concentrated parts of it. We need to strive to put it together, each piece interconnecting with the other, to really understand and benefit from it. To do that - we need the perspective of the entire book as seen through the eyes of the Author Himself, the Holy Spirit, Teacher and Revealer of God's Word. And as we sit at his feet with open hearts and spiritual ears tuned in to hear His voice what an amazing, beautiful, and simple picture begins to unfold!





Hello everybody,

Have you ever sat through a sermon that touched your heart so much that you made a promise that you would change yourself from that day forward? It isn't uncommon for the Spirit of the Lord to stir in your heart like that.

Have you ever been challenged to spend your life tapping into the greater purpose of God? God has placed in each one of us great potential.

When we surrender ourselves back to Him, our potential slowly transforms from a distant hope to an on-going life-style that gives all due glory back to the Almighty God by the way we live. It is frightfully exciting to think that the Creator of the universe wants to use us for His purpose!

The following is a proposal of an opportunity for you to invest in the Kingdom here on earth. Don't be surprised when you truly believe and realize the potential that you have inside you to contribute to the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Spirit of the Lord stirs in your heart.

In China, thousands of people are receiving Jesus as their savior daily! The need for Bibles is ever-increasing in China!

Wouldn't you like to touch people's lives?

You can be the answer to the prayers of many of these new believers!

If you are interested in helping the believers in China receive the Bibles they pray for, the following is some brief information about a trip that you can take:

**The next Bible Courier trip to Hong Kong and China
November 10 - 24, 2007**

On this particular trip, we will fly directly into Beijing with a load of Bibles, spend a couple days in the city, and then travel to Hong Kong by train to continue courier work there.

Other trips are scheduled for July 8 - 22, 2008 and November 8 - 22, 2008

Pray about it. Let the Spirit of the Lord be the one who calls you. And when you are certain of it, let us know!

In Christ,

Ellie Martin

For further details about the next exciting Bible Courier trip to China please contact Ellie at:

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Prayer Requests

1. We can think of many selfish things to pray about as we contemplate spending 10 weeks in southern Sudan. I'm sure if you would let your imagination run wild for a short time many prayer items will surface. Great! Pray for those things. But what we really want prayer for is that God would work in the hearts of the students, that the teacher would be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and that the power of God would break through in areas of darkness and bondage.
2. Ellie will be holding down the fort here. This is a new and big challenge and a great growing opportunity. Pray that God will bless her as she adjusts to the responsibilities and plans for the upcoming Bible Courier trip in November.
3. The latest word on 'The Life and Teachings of Jesus 'book is that the contract has been signed with the printer in China. We've had an incredible struggle to see this project through to this point. In fact, we were here in January when the project coordinator suddenly had to return to Malaysia and turn everything over to another person. Please continue to pray for every aspect of the final processes; printing, distribution, relationships, finances, integrity, protection and God's favor.



4. Khoa Dinh and his family are in the final stages of moving to Taiwan to begin ministry among 152,000 Vietnamese factory and domestic workers.



After doors closed repeatedly to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia, this one has opened very wide and we now see Gods clear leading. They plan to arrive in Taipei, Taiwan before the end of August. Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on their ministry. Pray for many souls and teachable future leaders.

Thank you so much!

Wendell & Daisy Martin