

OCT 2007

I have been putting off writing this prayer letter. I think you will understand when you finish reading it. This letter may be more difficult to write than the last one, which I dedicated to my granddaughter, Jenn. This prayer letter is dedicated to all who have partnered with me through prayer and gifts, all who have had me in your homes or invited me to your churches, encouraged me and loved me unconditionally. I will forever be indebted to you. I love you! Thanks for the memories!

Would you please allow me to travel down "memory lane"? Yesterday, Oct. 14, I visited Agape church in York, PA. The reason for the visit was the guest speaker, Dr. Harry Fletcher. The Lord used that visit to stir my memory. Let me explain.

This morning, Oct. 15, I found the very first Bible I purchased after my salvation. It was a Ryrie study Bible. On the blank pages I wrote dates of "mile markers" when I believed God was doing something special in my life. Maybe you have done the same!

My first "special mile marker" was entered Aug-16-80. Let me quickly add here for those who have forgotten, I became a follower of Jesus Christ in Dec-76. Now back to 1980: I was at Summit Grove campgrounds. This is a Christian & Missionary Alliance camp in southern York County. The speaker gave the challenge to make the Good Samaritan Pledge. He had preached from Luke 10:25-37. At the end of verse 37 I had written, "To whom can I become a neighbor?" God was at work!

My next entry was Oct-18-81. I believe it was my first visit to the Gospel Center, another church in York. The pastor was Dr Harry Fletcher. At the end of his message, he gave an invitation to commit your life to full-time Christian work wherever the Lord may lead. I was compelled to go forward. God was at work!

Next mile marker was Aug-3-87. I had been doing volunteer work with Teen Haven. Their ministry was and continues to be with the inner-city people. On this date, Teen Haven officially started in York and I started Bible studies and other activities for young kids. This work continues to this day. It was an awesome time. God was at work.

In Nov-93, I joined a group of men from my home church, Grace Fellowship, and we went to the Dominican Republic. It was at a time of turmoil in my life. I was going through a divorce. But I sensed the Lord saying "GO." The Lord used this trip in a mighty way. I went back to the DR in 94 and 95.

The next mile marker occurred in Feb-95. The founder of TIME Ministries, Zeral Brown, asked me a question that God used to remind me of my vow to Him to go wherever He led. It was under the tent (some of you remember the tent in the beginning) and I had finished sharing

devotions when Zeral looked me straight in the eyes and asked, "Why can't you do what I am doing here?" For those who knew Zeral, he was a gifted man of God. He was fluent in Spanish and designed the templates which we still use today (with slight modifications). Then there is me—after trying to learn Spanish, and failing miserably, God still uses me. I was not a good student in school. Things do not come easily to me. I say all that, not to condescend myself, because I know my Lord did not make a mistake with me OR YOU. He uses anyone who is willing and makes themselves available. God was at work!

I next found myself at Central Manor Campgrounds. It was 8-11-96 and the speaker was Dr. Ron Blue. An invitation was given at the end of his message. Again I felt compelled to stand in response to the challenge to say, "Here am I Lord, send me." Two months later, 10-17-96, I told the President of TIME (at that time), Alan Mezger, that I would go to Mexico for the summer. After this summer, I went before the Board on 9-7-97 and I was accepted into TIME. What an awesome ride it has been. I would not change a thing in my life. I once heard someone respond to the question "what would you change in your life if you could?"—"I would not change anything because I would be messing with the sovereignty of God." WOW! God was at work!

I have said all that to say this: For the past year and a half, I have discussed with Doug Gibson, the current President of TIME, what the Lord has been doing in my life. God is at work! I believe after seeking Him in prayer and seeking wise counsel from many . . . excuse me please . . . I am having trouble seeing the keys through the tears . . . I will resign from TIME in May 2008. The same emotions I had when I left the DR to go and help start a new work in Mexico are flooding my soul. It was so hard to leave the DR and all the people I had fallen in love with there. It is equally emotional to share with you another assignment my Lord has given me.

I know it will be difficult come next June not to be flying to the DR or driving to Mexico. I still remember the emotions that I had as I boarded a plane to Dallas, June-2-97 and wondering what in the world am I doing! However, the main reason I am resigning is that I have always tried to be obedient when the Lord has reassigned me. When He asked me to start a ministry in my Jerusalem, I did. When He asked me to travel in the US, I did. When He asked me to go to the DR, and then later to Mexico, I did. He is now sending me back to my Jerusalem. I never expected this! He is asking me to minister to my immediate family and I am ecstatic.

I have asked, and have been given permission, to take my two oldest grandchildren on a mission trip this summer. I cannot put in words how excited I am. Please pray for these trips. I am now praying about going to Ethiopia this summer on a scouting trip. BEWARE! I may be contacting you about joining me on another trip to Ethiopia to put in a well.

I have been asked to join the Global Missions Committee at my church with the possibility of leading some short term mission trips. I will attend the next meeting and discuss this possibility. I hope you can see that I am not retiring; although, I will start to receive my Social Security checks in May. I am hoping not to work but to have a schedule to go when and where I want to.

I will continue to help TIME when asked, if my schedule allows it. I would still love to come and visit you. If you would like me to share about TIME, or share from God's word, please let me know.

I close with this thought from "Living Joyously," authored by D. J. Flemings: "If we could get a steady deep insight into the character, purposes, desires, resources of our God, then unquenchable hope, invincible courage, unhesitating obedience, and absolute loyalty would be the spontaneous expression of our life." I have tried to live by this, knowing I have failed miserably at times.

Please continue to pray and or give to TIME Ministries. Please continue to challenge people in your church to take a mission trip. I was at a church yesterday afternoon that is planning a DR mission trip. How exciting to see 11 different churches represented in this team. I was excited to see and hear from this team and the excitement they had. For some, this will be their first trip, and I know that when they return they will never be the same. The same excitement that I felt way back, when I challenged a group for the first time, was still there yesterday. Thank you Jesus!

If you would like to partner with a missionary at TIME, AFTER I resign in May, I would be able to give you names of under-supported missionaries. I love you ALL and will miss you terribly. If you want me to join you on any trips, just let me know. My phone number and address will not change.

God is at work! You have seen this throughout my letter. Where is God at work with you? Have you made a vow to God many years ago and have not kept it? It is never too late to keep that vow or simply to say, "Here am I, use me wherever!"

Let us continue to rescue the perishing by being witnesses . . . "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)