



Impressions of the Journey

Summer/Fall 2006

Volume XIV, Issue II

The Cost of Discipleship

I think it is so interesting when God leads us to an experience that will change our thinking forever! It almost always starts as an ordinary daily event and grows from there. For instance when we were visiting in Vermont at the end of May we met a couple who go into churches to tell about the work of the “Voice of the Martyrs” organization. Well we had our faith in common so we chatted together for quite a while. We told them about our ministry and we learned a little about theirs. They also gave us some information about the “Voice of the Martyrs”.

One of the things they gave us was a book entitled “Persecuted for Christ” by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand. It is the story of the founder of the organization. I must tell you that I do not always sit right down and read books that are given to me. Quite often they are relegated to a pile of “I’ll read them sometime” books. For a reason unknown to me at the time I did start reading this one right away. Of course I now realize it was God directing me to read something that would effect me deeply.

The cost of claiming Christ as savior is very high in many parts of the world. That is a fact that I was aware of in a distant removed sort of way, but that changed as I read the book. This man paid that price in his homeland. It is amazing and alarming to me to know that torture is taking place in this world of enlightenment!! I can’t even fathom being imprisoned and tortured for simply saying that Jesus is Lord! However that is exactly what happened in this man’s life for 14 years! It is happening in thousands of countries every day. This book was not easy to read and for many it is a book they should not read just because the accounts are so gruesome. Amazingly Pastor Wurmbbrand did not tell his experiences in great detail be-

cause he said it caused him terrible nightmares when he retold it in detail.

As I read several thoughts occurred to me. The first was that if what I was reading was the milder retelling of the events I can’t even imagine how horrible it was. I also started thinking about the ministry God has called Jim and I to do. Our great persecution is when a pastor does not want us in his church because we have some different beliefs in areas of faith that are not critical to salvation or because he/she does not believe in clown ministry! That is unbelievable. We are free to go into not only just about any church in America but also in the public forum to proclaim our faith. As long as we don’t try to force our faith on others we are not deterred in any way.



Blessed are they
which are persecuted
for Righteousness sake

It became clear to me that not only do we need to be grateful for our freedom of faith, but we also need to do something to aid the ministry that takes place in the parts of the world where there is no freedom of faith at all. We have decided that we are going to send part of our tithe from the income to the ministry to the “Voice of the Martyrs”. Maybe we can’t go there to minister but we can help others to go and to take God’s word with them. How blessed we are to be able to take part in reaching the far corners of the earth with the Gospel of Jesus.

So next time you have a chance encounter or what appears to be an ordinary experience hang on God just might be about to rock your thinking and open your eyes to a new way of taking part in His ministry to the world!

Change! Who said anything about Change!!

You may have noticed that there is a new logo on the front of the newsletter. You may also have noticed that the name of the ministry is no longer “Krazy Klowns for Christ and Visitors from the Past” We have dropped the first part of the name for a couple of reasons. First we have been thinking about doing this for some time because often the name is shortened to “Krazy Klowns for Christ” and that causes trouble in churches where we find children waiting for a clown when what they are getting is a lady from the Bible! The other reason for the change is that we have talked and prayed about a decision regarding the future of whinny the clown. Finally after much prayer we have decided that whinny will retire after 2008. I am finding that I can’t keep up the ambitious pace of the clown programs. So of course if whinny is retired we will no longer be the “Krazy Klowns for Christ”.

Since we are making the change in name we have decided after prayer and consultation with our board of directors to incorporate the ministry. The process will take some time. We are working with a lawyer and an accountant to make sure we carry out the process correctly.

These changes probably prompt at least one question from you folks. That being what will happen to the ministry of Vacation Bible School? Well first we will not be doing as many Bible schools as we have been for the past several years. We are *not* giving up VBS completely. After taking one summer off (the summer of 2009) we will continue to do up to four weeks of VBS each summer. However I will be doing them as a magical storyteller. God is giving me several ideas for this new VBS format. The curriculum that I send to the local churches

will be more organized (no really I did say organized!). I will try to begin the planning process with the local church earlier and to work more closely on the details.

Any of you who check our website regularly will already have discovered the other change I have to announce. We have had many wonderful friends plan and maintain our website for a number of years. We are eternally grateful for those folks for the work they have contributed to help us move into the 21st century. But we are finding that more folks are using the web to gain information about the ministry and we realized that it was time for us to hire a professional to redesign and maintain the site. There are several reasons for this. First maintaining a website is time consuming and it is presumptuous of us to ask anyone to do the work without paying for their work. Secondly I have been remiss in making sure the information needed for the website gets to whoever is doing it. Now I will be motivated to have the information current because we are paying for it so I have just the right amount of pressure on me!

Steve and Mary Jo Young of YCS Global are now our webmasters. They are not only absolutely professional but they also know the Lord and so appreciate the ministry God has called us to. Steve has redesigned the site. There are many new features that are exciting. Folks are now able to order videos directly from the web as well as being able to make online donations! The calendar is also changed. I can now go into the calendar and add or remove programs as they are scheduled or cancelled. That means the calendar should always be current! Our brochure is also available for download and printing from the web.

Leaves from the Family Tree

We have had what has seemed to me to be a hectic summer. We haven’t done more ministry but we have been gone from our Sykesville home base more. That has meant not having as much time to be with Mom and dad as we would like. We did however have the blessing of Mom traveling with us to Vermont in July. We went up over the first week to celebrate Dalton’s second birthday. It was wonderful to have this time for Mom to be with Max and DJ. They really enjoy being with “Nanny Peg”

As I am putting the finishing touches on this newsletter we are finishing another short visit to Vermont. This time our son Tom was able to come up from North Carolina and we had a family camping weekend in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The kids gift to Jim for his birthday (you know the milestone one!!!) was a trip up the cog railroad to the top of Mt Washington. We all went and even the little guys enjoyed the ride and the view. It is truly fascinating to see this relatively small steam engine push a railroad car to the top of the mountain and then go before it on the way down. (There is a sermon in there for sure and that may be my front page article for the next newsletter!)

My Mom was also blessed to drive with her sisters to South Carolina to spend some time with my Uncle Russ and Aunt Amy. I am so pleased that they are all well enough to have taken the trip and had the time together. I am also so pleased that Dad is in such a wonderful home and so well cared for and content that Mom can get away for a few days here and there.



FALL!! Where in the world did summer go?

I honestly feel like the world sometimes is whirling past at a breakneck speed. We will head home to Sykesville on the 1st of September and the ministry schedule begins full tilt on the 6th. We do plan to be in New England for the month of October again this year. At this time we have 7 definite ministry dates with some on the tentative schedule.

As I have been praying about the October dates and the trip to New England God has been speaking to me about planning. Have you ever come to a place in life where you realize it is time to stop trying to do everything? Well I have and it is clear that I can't do the proper planning for future programs when we are in the midst of a full ministry roster.

As I mentioned in the article about the changes taking place we are looking at a different VBS curriculum which requires that I be able to spend time at the computer planning and researching. I am also working on one new portrayal and putting the finishing touches on another one.

Therefore I feel that God is leading me to use the time we are in

New England to devote to planning and research for these new projects. We of course will do the 7 programs that are on the calendar and if any of the tentative ones are confirmed we will be happy to be able to do them. But we will not be pursuing any more dates at this time so that the majority of my time will be free for planning and preparation.

As you know that will present a bit of a challenge financially. However it is a good time for us to set time aside because Jim is able to work at the campground in Vermont so our parking is free and that makes a big difference. It still presents some obstacles because about 70% of our income is from the ministry dates we have. So we are asking that you would keep this in prayer. It may be that God would ask you to send us a one time gift to help with this planning time but whether He lays that on your heart or not we ask that you pray for his provision for us. We know that as we are faithful to what he calls us to do he is faithful to make it possible for us to do it.

Where we have been and what we have done

When I look back over this summer it is incredible not only how fast it went by but in the ways that we have seen God's hand upon us. We started the summer with the privilege of being the emcee at a service of celebration for the 50 years of ministry of our friend Dick Burns. A new character was born just for the occasion. Her name is Sarah Sanctuary old Sunday school teacher. She reminded Dick of some of his antics in his younger years and ruled the event with an iron hand as any good Sunday school teacher knows how to do. I have been told by a couple of people that she should become part of the ministry and I am thinking that is the case so we will wait to see how God uses her in the future.

Bible schools are always a blessing and this year was no different. Our first week was at Rome-town Community church near Titusville, PA. We saw several children make first time commitments to Jesus. At our closing program one of the fathers who was there had just started coming to church events and he heard the story of Jesus and the invitation. We pray that he also made a decision for Jesus that night as we found out a few weeks later that he had died shortly after that week. It made me stop to think again that the invitation is not just for children and I have been more careful than ever to make sure I say that when I invite those present to come to Jesus.

Another Bible school blessing was at a wonderful church in Altoona. We had several children who were anxious to take parts in the stories I was telling but one boy was especially eager. He was a great actor. Not all the children really play the parts after they get in front of the group but he did and was good at it too. The blessing came when his mother told me the he is autistic and had never responded like that before! He was there every night and took many parts and did an outstanding job of acting them out.

We were blessed this year by two things that happened as a result of this year's Easter Sunrise service. The service was held at the cemetery in DuBois and I brought Mary Magdalene to visit. After the worship service a man came up to us with tears in his eyes and told us how Mary had touched his heart. He then presented me with a beautiful sculpture of Jesus name in the shape of the ictus which he had made. It is now mounted on the back of our trailer so everyone can see it.

The second thing that happened was that a family from MI was passing through town and came to the service. As it turned out the wife and mother happens to be the director of Women's ministries at their church. She has invited us to come out their way in November for a Ladies tea. So we will be traveling to MI the week after Thanksgiving for our first ministry visit to MI!

September

.18-20 First United Methodist Church, Titusville, PA 7:00 pm each evening. Contact Jacob Ongley 814-827-1829 for further details

21 Sheffield Senior Center, Sheffield, PA 5:30 pm dinner with program to follow. Contact Sherry Servesko 814-968-5667 for further details.

23 Christ United Methodist Church, Franklin, PA 10:00 am followed by salad luncheon. Contact Susan Slautterbach 814-437-5648 for further details.

24 Masontown United Methodist Church, Masontown, PA 11:00 am morning worship.

24 Masontown United Methodist Church, Masontown, PA calendar party program 3:00 pm followed by light meal. Contact Dora Farrier 724-583-9446 for further details.

30 Board of Directors meeting Lakeside Church, DuBois, PA 10:00 am

October New England tour

8 Corinth United Methodist Church, Corinth Maine. Contact Pastor Cindy Nickerson corinthumc@verizon.net for further details.

14 Hartland UMC, Hartland ME, Contact Pastor Shandi (207) 938-2925 for details

15 Hartland UMC, morning worship

15 West Scarborough United Methodist Church. Contact Mary Ellen Bossom 207-885-1573 for further details.

22 Greater Hartford UCC, White River Junction, VT morning worship 10:00 am. Contact Janice Chilek ghuccjc@localnet.com for further details.

29 Church of the Nazarene, White River Junction, VT contact pastors Peter and Sue Heilman 603-747-2977 for details.

November

5 Cassadaga Community Baptist Church, Cassadaga, NY 10:00 am. Contact Kathy Cross 716-595-2453 for further details.

10 Homestead Park united Methodist Church, Homestead, PA 7:00 pm. Contact Dolly Vogel legaleagle827@yahoo.com for details.

11 Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge, PA Ladies retreat. Contact the church 724-224-7300 for details.

12 Grace and Mt Zion Lutheran Churches, Windber, PA morning worship. Contact Lillian Hironimus 814-467-9859 for details.

12 Asbury United Methodist Church, Waterford, PA 6:00 pm. Contact Rev. Jim Fish 814-796-6012 for details.

18 Brookville Church of God, Brookville, PA Ladies tea. Contact Donna Brush 814-849-2761 for details.

19 Lakemont Church of God, Altoona, PA, morning worship 10:00 am. Contact Patti Ferricks 814-941-2386 for details.

26 Faith United Methodist Church, Delmont, PA two worship services. Contact Louise Cupcheck 724-834-2709 for details.

28 Woodland Church, Brownstown, MI Ladies Tea 7:00 pm. Contact Gina Krug 734-753-0054 for details.

29 Centerville OH, Wednesday evening service, check website calendar for final details.



PO Box 121
Sykesville, PA 15865

Phone: 814-590-1937
814-591-9150
luellakk@fool4christ.org

Non-Profit
15865
US Postage Paid
Sykesville, PA
Permit No. 1

We're on the web
www.fool4christ.org