

Newsletter 8

Our Ministry is the Same, but Our Address Has Changed!

We have made the move to our new home! It has been a year of transition for our family and our ministry. We haven't moved very far, just about 5 miles. However, the numbers and the road are now different.

Our new address is: **5683 South Boatman Road, Underwood, Indiana, 47177**. Please direct your letters of support, words of encouragement, and questions to the new address.

I want to thank everyone who kept us in their prayers as we made this move. There were times when the work was tough, and we wondered if we would ever get finished. Well, we are still not finished, but we have moved!

New Year – New Opportunities

The excitement of new opportunities can soon fade away in the stark reality of everyday life. What we once considered a great adventure can easily become a treacherous trip into the wild unknown. The very thoughts of difficulties, disappointments, depression, and a whole bunch of other “d” words turn the excitement of a new adventure into the dread of the very next moment of life we must face. The dark days of winter cloud our ability to see clearly. Disappointments caused by breakdowns in communication make us wonder if it is really worth all the trouble. The obstacles placed in our way by people who do not want us to succeed make each step we take heavy and trying. Add to that the well-intentioned misgivings of folk who really want to help but don't know how, and pretty soon we sit back and ask the most vital of all questions: “Why in the world am I doing this?”

Living Hope Ministry has its share of ups and downs, but we have to shout, the ups far out weigh the downs.

One day, after preaching in northern Indiana, a dear friend of ours took me aside, and asked if it was okay that she asked me a very important question. Her family has been a blessing to our family for many years, so the answer was, “Yes, ask anything you need to ask.”

She told me how much the message of the morning meant to her, and she wondered if what I was doing now was really God's will for my life. She said, “Shouldn't you be in a located ministry right now?” You have to love these kinds of people in your life because she pulled no punches. My answer to her was simple. I asked her what she thought the best use of my life might be at this time. Would it be best for me to help 500 people in one

church or 600 – 800 preachers in just that many churches? The answer is obvious to me.

The adventure has been more than I could ever have imagined. The work, the people who support the work, the people involved in the work, the people we are able to reach because of the work; I don't believe we would have ever been able to reach the people we are now reaching if we hadn't made this move.

What are the difficulties involved in Living Hope Ministry? Some are the obvious ones: raising support, getting all the office work done in a timely manner, getting out mailings, addresses, web site work. These are the obvious ones. The other difficulties are more internal. We don't serve just one church, and that can be lonely. The band of support people are more scattered out and we don't see them as often. Days can be lonely. Dark days are down right depressing.

But the up side is amazing. I am learning the reality of such great scriptures as, "...If God be for us, who can be against us..." "...Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." "...nothing is impossible with for God." "...I will never leave you or forsake..."

If all of these words had been alive in my life in the located ministry I would probably still be there. However, if I was still in the located ministry I doubt that I would be doing what I am doing now.

Isn't it amazing! We leave the dream we had all of our lives to find the dream we had been chasing all of our lives!

“New Year – New Opportunities – I pray you are following the Dream!”

Someone asked the other day, “How many people are involved in this work?” It caught me off guard but I quickly began to count the number of people involved in the on going, day-to-day work. The number I came up with was 17. These are the people who have some contact on a daily or weekly basis with what goes on for Living Hope Ministry. This number doesn't include those who support financially, the churches who host the Ministry to Ministers, the ministers who are telling others about the work, the number of people in various churches praying for the work, and some I am sure I have forgotten. I thought this was a very good question.

Bible Study DVDs are Coming!

New opportunities always create new avenues of expression if we are willing to take the risk. We have been willing and right now we are in the process of creating 8 lessons on DVD for use in Bible Studies, Small Groups, as Evangelism Training, or just about any way one sees fit.

The studies are entitled: "Questions that Keep People Away from Church." Our desire is to offer Biblically sound answers to the most commonly asked questions that keep people away from church. As we learn what God's Word says we become better equipped to minister to the people we are around every day. We are having a lot of fun getting these DVD's ready. At present 4 of the studies are ready to go, and by the end of February we trust all 8 will be ready.

If you are interested in more information concerning these studies you may contact our web site, give me a call, or contact Bill and Becky Snowden (812-794-2592)

2008 Schedule

Ministry to Ministers and Church Leaders

February 25, 2008 -- Broadway Christian Church, Lexington, KY
March 31- April 1, 2008 – Ringgold Church of Christ, Hagerstown, MD
April 7, 2008 – North Vernon Christian Church, North Vernon, IN
April 21, 2008 – First Christian Church of Jasper, Jasper, IN
April 25-27, 2008 – Ringgold Church of Christ, Hagerstown, IN
September 15, 2008 – Paoli Christian Church, Paoli, IN
September 29, 2008 – First Christian Church, Martinsville, IL
October 13, 2008 – Peaks Mill Christian Church, Frankfort, KY

Preaching Schedule

February 9, Scottsburg, In. "Soul Mates"
March 12, Shelby Christian Church, Shelbyville, KY
April 6-9, United Christian Church, Uniontown, IN
April 27, Ringgold Church of Christ, Hagerstown, MD
May 4-5, Choatesville Christian Church, Frankfort, KY
September -- Leatherwood Christian Church, Bedford, IN
September 17-19, Houston Christian Church
October 7, Wonder Valley Seniors Day
November 1-5 – Willisburg Christian Church, Willisburg, KY

You are Invited

Our next Ministry to Ministers & Church Leaders will be at the Broadway Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Bob Russell will be leading two very important sessions:

9:00 am—Elders: Allies or Adversaries

10:40 am—Leadership Lessons I Have Learned from Major Mistakes I Have Made...

The cost is \$15 per person due the day of the conference. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

To register call 800-861-3437 or email nate@broadwaychristian.com by February 22.

Hope to see you there!

Support Corner

Jesus encouraged us to, "...ask and it shall be given to you..." I never had any trouble asking for people to give to support the work of the local church. We are now engaged in a work to support the church that is outside the boundary of any local church. We do have a support team that helps in the decision making process. The elders of the Paoli Christian Church have agreed to come alongside as accountability partners in this ministry. Approximately 20 volunteers are working to help insure this ministry reaches the needs of those in the service of the King.

God has opened many new doors for the coming year that we had only dreamed possible just 3 short years ago.

All of this requires financial support to help us provide the ministry needed.

If you have given before let me say, "Thank you," from the bottom of my heart. Please consider helping again as the New Year continues.

If you give on a regular basis let me tell how much your faithfulness means to me when I am not sure how things are going to work out. I have learned a great deal about trusting our Savior to provide over the last 3 years.

If you were wondering, all donations are tax deductible. Donna Faris does a great job with our financial records as well as making sure all the bills are paid. Please know you can ask any question, at any time, and we will do our best to answer.

May our Great God in heaven bless your faithfulness!

Contact Information

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