

International Commission

February 8

NEWSLETTER

2012

Jim and Silvia Nimmons & Family

Is this Your God Given Opportunity?

“To do what”, you ask? Well, to be used by God in a really large way—even though you probably didn’t expect it. What I’m referring to is a huge need right now in Burkina Faso. Many souls may be affected by our ability to come through.

I was assigned this project late in November which is really not a good time. I was assigned to help enlist for one of our veteran leaders—Sonia Burnell. She had been enlisting for several month, but the response was sparse. I am trying to help out the cause, but the need is still quite large. We are working with 19 churches. We typically assign a team of 5 workers with each church. There would be 2 Africans from the area, 2 Americans and 1 translator. So, do the math. For 19 churches we should have 38 Americans. We currently have 8 people that we have been able to buy plane tickets for. There looks like about another 8 are strongly committed to go. That still leaves quite a shortage. We are trying to pull more nationals in to help out, but perhaps God wants you to go? It is more likely than you think. After all, we are all commanded to be a part of reaching both our Jerusalem,and the uttermost parts of the world as well. God can provide.

There also may be a great opportunity in terms of price as well. We were able to buy tickets last Friday for a very low price. It was only \$1320 round trip out of Houston. We originally projected flight cost to be between \$2,000 and \$2,200. This is a huge blessing. It is so sad



General Committee for the Burkina Faso project

that so few have been able to take advantage of it. We don’t know how long prices will stay down, but I am praying that the Lord of the Harvest will put it on your heart to go, and that prices will stay down until you do.

I don’t know what God is up to, but we will continue forward. We covet your prayers that the need will be met. Please pray with us. Also, here is a list of some of the churches and pastors in Burkina Faso that we are partnering with so that you can begin to pray for them by name. They are Pastor Drabo Adama of Baptis Centrale, Loempi Adaa of Baptist Ouezzin ville 15, Kone Isaie of Baptiste Col-sama 21, Bonogo A Marcel of Baptiste Sarfalao 17, Sawadogo Issa Josue of Baptis Sainte Etienne, and Ssanou Jonas of Cie Yeguer.

Some other churches that I don’t have the pastors names for are Baptist Mont Sinai, Centre Evangelism, Centre Absalom, Baptist la grace, Baptist sion, Baptist saint Eteinne, Baptist Sarfalao, Baptist Badare, Baptist gnafougou, Gaptist karangasso vigue, Baptist kiere, Baptist mossobadougou, Cie mahanaim, Cie yeguer, Cie Rehoboth, Cie Sogossagasso, and Cie Abias. I know that the words are weird and I don’t know how to translate most of them. Some are related to French and others are related to local languages. We have been having good leadership training meetings and have been also discussing how to help reach and disciple the children through their households by way of the parents, etc.

Pray, Pray Pray. God is working so we know that Satan isn’t just going to stand there and do nothing. We don’t realize how important it is that we stay before the throne. We can’t see God and may often doubt what good our prayers do. May God open our eyes.



One of the Congregations after Sunday Service

Well, let start out with a praise. Right after sending out last months newsletter I was informed that Day's surgery has finally been approved and we got it done in short order. She is now getting ready for the "Big" upper jaw surgery which will hopefully be done this summer. Noble has been approved as a student at Liberty University. That is the new plan. He hopes to go in the fall and study aviation. We still are looking at the financial side of it all and praying for lots of financial aid. Silvia has had more health issues crop up. She is has had a burning sensation in her lower abdomen. She thinks it is the uterus area. The doctor is unsure of what it is. There does seem to be evidence of infection. Tests are still being run. Please pray that it is nothing serious. The other kids have had a fairly normal January. Mostly, just school, church and running loose outside enjoying the warm January. Will it stay this warm? We will see.

Upcoming 2013

International Project

- Guatamala (Guatamala City).....Feb 1 – 11
- China 1Possible March Date
- Arabian Pennisula.....Possible March Date
- Serbia (Backi-Petrovac).....March 14-25
- * Cuba (Special Youth Project).....Possibly April
- * Burkina Faso (Bobo Dioulasso).....April 11– 22
- * Gabon (Franceville).....April 18–30
- * Armenia (Yerevan).....April 25–May6

**Push Ctrl & Click here
to Visit our Website at**

www.IC-World.org

Prayer Requests & Praises:

- 1) **Pray for Silvia.** Uterus pain, Dental issues, and the hernia are all concerns. Pray that I will have wisdom.
- 2) **Pray for Dayspring.** Praise God for making things that seemed big into small things of the past. The tooth is out!
- 3) **Pray for Burkinda Faso —** Pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers. May God teach us how to pray.
- 4) **Begin to Pray for Brazil—**I am beginning work on a project in Brazil. About 25 Churches are participating. It is in southern parts of Brazil in the State of Parana. Pray as I begin the process of sharing with churches.
- 5) **Pray for our Nation.** May God raise up Godliness again. May our churches once again become bible centered and not just bible study. May we be doers of the Word.

Soul Food for Strong Hearts

The rest of this newsletter is meant as a help for those who are hungering to grow in their prayer life or just want more of Christ formed in their soul. (Gal. 4:19) My simple goal is to share concepts from God's word which have been helpful to me. May it be a blessing to you!

How to Pray

I love to read books on prayer. I am convinced by the bible that nothing is more important than our prayer life. I have found that books on prayer written long ago are often much more forceful that most modern books on this subject. I am here including some excerpts from R. A. Torrey's book entitled simple "How to Pray". I am taking this excerpt from the chapter called " The Importance of Prayer".

In the 6th chapter of Ephesians in the 18th verse we read words which put the tremendous importance of prayer with starling and overwhelming force: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." When we stop to weigh the meaning of these words, then note the connection in which they are found, the intelligent child of God is driven to say, "I must pray, pray, pray. I must

put all my energy and all my heart into prayer”.

Note the ALLS: "with ALL prayer," "at ALL seasons," "in ALL perseverance," "for ALL the saints." Note the piling up of strong words, "prayer," "supplication," "perseverance." Note once more the strong expression, "watching thereunto," more literally, "being sleepless thereunto." Paul realized the natural slothfulness of man, and especially his natural slothfulness in prayer. How seldom we pray things through! How often the church and the individual get right up to the verge of a great blessing in prayer and just then let go, get drowsy, quit. I wish that these words "being sleepless unto prayer" might burn into our hearts. I wish the whole verse might burn into our hearts.

But why is this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer so needful?

- 1. First of all, **BECAUSE THERE IS A DEVIL.** He is cunning, he is mighty, he never rests, he is ever plotting the downfall of the child of God; and if the child of God relaxes in prayer, the devil will succeed in ensnaring him.

This is the thought of the context. The 12th verse reads: "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (R.V.) Then comes the 13th verse: "Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand." (R.V.) Next follows a description of the different parts of the Christian's armor, which we are to put on if we are to stand against the devil and his mighty wiles. Then Paul brings all to a climax in the 18th verse, telling us that to all else we must add prayer -- constant, persistent, untiring, sleepless prayer in the Holy Spirit, or all else will go for nothing.

- 2. A second reason for this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer is that **PRAYER IS GOD'S APPOINTED WAY FOR OBTAINING THINGS, AND THE GREAT SECRET OF ALL LACK IN OUR EXPERIENCE, IN OUR LIFE AND IN OUR WORK IS NEGLIGENCE OF PRAYER.**

James brings this out very forcibly in the 4th chapter and 2nd verse of his epistle: "Ye have not because ye ask not." These words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian -- neglect of prayer. "Why is it," many a Christian is asking, "I make so little progress in my Christian life?" "Neglect of prayer," God answers. "You have not because you ask not." "Why is it," many a minister is asking, "I see so little fruit from my labors?" Again God answers, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not." "Why is it," many a Sunday-School teacher is asking, "that I see so few converted in my Sunday-School class?" Still God answers, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not." "Why is it," both ministers and churches are asking, "that the church of Christ makes so little headway against unbelief and error and sin and worldliness?" Once more we hear God answering, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not."



I must put all my energy and all my heart into prayer.

- 3. The third reason for this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer is that **THOSE MEN WHOM GOD SET FORTH AS A PATTERN OF WHAT HE EXPECTED CHRISTIANS TO BE -- THE APOSTLES -- REGARDED PRAYER AS THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS OF THEIR LIVES.**

When the multiplying responsibilities of the early church crowded in upon them, they "called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But **WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER** and to the ministry of the Word." It is evident from what Paul wrote to the churches and to individuals about praying for them, that very much of his time and strength and thought was given to prayer. (Rom. 1:9, R.V.; Eph. 1:15,16; Col. 1:9, R.V.; 1_Thess. 3:10; 2_Tim. 1:3, R.V.) All the

mighty men of God outside the Bible have been men of prayer. They have differed from one another in many things, but in this they have been alike.

- 4. But there is a still weightier reason for this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer. It is, **PRAYER OCCUPIED A VERY PROMINENT PLACE AND PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN THE EARTHLY LIFE OF OUR LORD.**

Turn, for example, to Mark 1:35. We read, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." The preceding day had been a very busy and exciting one, but Jesus shortened the hours of needed sleep that He might arise early and give Himself to more sorely needed prayer. Turn again to Luke 6:12, where we read, "And it came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Our Savior found it necessary on occasion to take a whole night for prayer.

He is our example. All Christians are called to follow His example. May we again become His "House of Prayer"



Is prayerlessness the enemy we have befriended?