

International Commission

June 8

NEWSLETTER

2012

Jim and Silvia Nimmons & Family

How to Grow in the Grace of Faith

“...The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. . . .”
Luke 10:2

Never have I been more conscious of those words of Jesus than over the last few weeks. Things went so amazingly well in Africa and we still are following up with friends and workers who are doing the follow up on the decisions made there. One big difference from Haiti is that, even though Burkina Faso was so much farther from the states, there were many more resources available for discipleship than the part of Haiti that we were in. Of course, some areas in Haiti have many resources. It's just that we were in a more remote section. Our staff in Africa is letting us know that the follow up is doing quite well which doesn't surprise me to see that the churches were so well prepared while we were there.

So now my primary attention turns towards the next project that is assigned to me. It is in Brazil, in a city called Umuarama in the far southern state of Parana. We are working with 25 church there and need at least 50 people to “Go” to the harvest field. I'm am working in partnership with Gary Godkin who is also somewhat new to the ministry. Gary has been with International Commission for about 2 years. Well, both of us have been talking to churches and individuals about going for nearly four months. How many have committed to going? Zero. That's right—nada, zip, nil. Can you believe that? We've each spoken with hundreds of people. I have enlisted nearly 50 persons who say that they are praying about the possibility of going, but none of those people have even



**The Brazilian Flag—represents
our project for Oct 17-29**

Sent in the basic application to go. I constantly stress that the application, the passport, and other parts in the process do not obligate them to go. They only make going possible, yet the only one who has sent in their application and money to go is my daughter Elizabeth. She is fund raising feverishly and determined to go even if no one else does.

Now if this was just happening to me it would be one thing. But it seems that the increasing struggle to enlist workers is happening throughout the ministry. One staff member who has been with IC for 17 years recently had only a handful of people for a project that is launching next week. And, many of you know that we only had 1/4 of the workers we needed on this Africa project that I just returned from.

Apathy regarding missions (and evangelism) seems to be reaching an all time high in the church today. The passion and burden for souls seems to be a low concern for most American Christians. Is this another evidence that we are the Laodicean (lukewarm) church? Are we moving more towards a last days apostasy?

Whatever the answer, we still have our Lord's promise that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world”. God is still calling obedient hearts to go where his Spirit is moving around the world. He is calling to His great harvest. Notice that Jesus didn't tell his disciples to pray that someone else would go to the harvest ***in place of them***. They were already going to participate in the harvest themselves. Your prayers to the Lord of the harvest are somewhat hypocritical

(continued at the bottom of page 2)



**Pray for where God wants you
to go to participate in His work**

About the Nimmons Family — Well thank you for you prayers. God has done so many miracle lately for our family that it's staggering. Dayspring had her high school graduation and her major jaw surgery. Praise God, it seems that all went well. It's about 6 months to full recovery, but she's finally off meds and starting to look happy again. There are many struggles. Mom (Silvia) doesn't sleep much because Dayspring needs a lot a attention and will for a few weeks at least. Noble stays busy with teaching swimming, learning how to invest/trade and doing music with some different youth groups. Caleb stays busy finishing school, working out for football and earning money mowing lawns. Liz is focusing on school as well. She and the little ones have been a little neglected with all that is going on. They are still unfinished with the years school work. Jed's arm is now out of the cast and he just has a sling. Silvia continues to wish she could remember the joys of boredom. I'm trying to help her a little so that she doesn't kill herself. Please keep various health concerns we have for her in prayer. Hopefully, we will get to those soon too. Thanks for all your prayers. We can feel them. KLUJICS again!!! (This means "Keep Looking Up Jesus Is Coming Soon!" for those of you who asked.

Upcoming 2013

International Projects

- * Ukraine (Lviv).....June 20—July 1
- * Phillipines.....June 27— July 8
- * Bazil (Japen).....June 27—July 8
- * Hungay (13 wk camp project)....June 28—Sept 3
- * Colombia (Barranquilla).....June 28—July 7
- * JamaicaJuly 12—22
- * VenezuelaJuly 19 - 28
- * Cuba (Youth Project).....July 24—28

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www.IC-World.org

Prayer Requests & Praises:

- 1) **Praise God for His Wonderous work in Burkina Faso—**
And Praise God for the continue good reports from there, keep them in prayer.
- 2) **Praise and prayer request for Dayspring.** Praise God for her highschool graduation which went so well. Praise God for God's favor. Surgery went smoothly. Pray for her recovery. Many trials ahead- Liquid diet for months; no feeling in her jaws, etc. It's difficult to go through.
- 3) **Praise for Jedidiah —** His broken arm is 90% healed.
- 4) **Continue to Pray for Brazil—**Please give serious consideration to going. It will change your life! Money is no issue for God. God will supply where He leads.
- 5) **Pray for our Nation.** May God raise up Godliness again.

Soul Food for Strong Hearts

This month I would like to share more details about Burkina Faso. This will take the place of the normal article on growth that I often share. I pray that the news of what God is doing will encourage you to believe that God is still at work and that He can even turn things around in America.

How to Grow in the Grace of Faith (continued)

unless you are willing to go yourself. This, of course requires faith and therein may lie much of the real problem. We seem to be increasingly a people of little faith. To go share the gospel in other lands does involve money and we really don't expect the provision to come. (or maybe we don't have time, or too much pride to mention what we are wanting to do for God.). We certainly are in a day where faith in God's provision is at an all time low. We know that God CAN do anything, but we don't expect Him to do anything outside of our prior experience. Well, God understands and wants us to grow in faith but first we must understand how this can happen. Are there clear biblical teachings on how our faith can grow? You bet there are. In fact, there are quite a few. I will only have space today to mention one of them. I pray that the Lord will give you "ears to hear" as I share this biblical key.

This particular key to faith is probably the foundation of all the other keys—not only to faith, but most things in the Christian life. I Corinthians 13:13 teaches that the three enduring qualities we can have are Faith, Hope and Love and

that the greatest of them is Love. These three qualities are also interconnected—one affecting another. Love especially will affect the amount of Hope and Faith we have. This is why the Bible says, “.....faith works by love.....” Gal. 5:6

The Amplified Bible says that faith is activated, energized, expressed and works through (by way of) love. The clear teaching is that the key to grow your faith is to grow your love. This isn't surprising because the center of every problem we have is always a love deficit. This lack of a “first love” plagued the church at Ephesus and it plagues us still.

This actually makes common sense if you think about it. For example, a mother will often believe in (have faith in) her children in spite of their acting in ways that aren't deserving of trust (faith). She still continues to have faith in them because of love. The degree to which we love someone will affect our desire to believe in them. In other words, when we give our hearts to someone we also will believe the best about them against all odds.

How much more should we have faith in God who has been more faithful and loving to us than anyone we have ever known? He is much more loving than even our parents or our very best of friends.

But how can we grow in the grace of love—Agape selfless love? Let's look at the story in Luke 7: 36-50. In this story Jesus is eating at Simon the Pharisees house when a very sinful woman comes in and washes His feet. She poured ointment on His feet and washed them with her tears and her hair. Simon is self-righteously indignant that Jesus would let her do this. Jesus knowing his thoughts tells Simon a story about two men that were in debt. One owed a lot of money and the other one just a little. They were both then exempted from paying their debts and Jesus asks this question. “Which of these men loved the one who forgave them the most?” Simon rightly answered, “the one who was forgiven the most”. Jesus then illustrated that this woman loved Him (and God) much more than Simon because she had been forgiven of much more. (not really, but this was probably her view of it).



How can God “arrest” our full attention toward His great mercy?



Umuarama is in the state of Paraná in Southern Brazil

truly amazing it is that God would love us. The Holy Spirit can only reveal this, if we hunger for it and make it an object of earnest regular petition (John 16:8). God can help us move toward brokenness like this woman and a gratefulness that will cause the radical types of actions that she took (how could she behave so foolishly in public—not to mention wasteful — These were the types of thoughts Judas Iscariot had of her.

This is the kind of crazy attitude that will move us toward trusting God to provide for us as we “Seek ...first the Kingdom of God”. It will also cause us to be broken over the millions heading toward a Christless eternity. It will cause us to be like the wind—not knowing where we are going to (John 3:8). We will see Him as the God who owns the cattle on a thousand hill and we will say like Isaiah. “Here am I, send me”.

My prayer for you is that you will enjoy the presence of God which can only come from a life which depends on Him to do the impossible. And that He will direct you to do all you do with Him and for His glory. Don't limit Him. Let your faith in our awesome God soar as you “.....mount up on wings eagles” (Isaiah 40:31).

This contains an extremely powerful teaching on Love and relates it to how much we are forgiven. So, does this mean that we need to go and become a bigger sinner to be able to love God more? Of course not.

Simon's lack of love for God didn't stem from his lack of sinfulness. It came from his lack of perception of how extremely sinful he already was. He was actually just as sinful as the woman, but he (and perhaps she) didn't see it that way. That “high self esteem” became a dam blocking the grace which could have brought love to his heart (1 John 4:19).

You see, the bible teaches that we are all 100% depraved, 100% sinful, and zero percent good (Gen 6:5, 8:21, Jer 17:9, Is 53:6, Is 64:6, Rom 3:10-11, Pro 28:26, Matt 15:19, Eccl 9:3, Mk 10:18, etc). The only good that is in us is that which God's grace puts there. No good acts can change this. All the supposed good we do is either God doing it in spite of us, or is tainted by some ulterior motive which we may not even be conscious of. This means that we're all equally bad since we all are the same 100% depraved. Depravity just takes on a different form in each individual. But, Simon was only able to see the women's sinfulness. He couldn't see his own.

So it is with us. Our love and true gratitude (which goes beyond just attitude. It takes action) is directly connected to our awareness of how

**“We love Him
because He first
loved us”**

1 John 4:19