

Every Child Ministries
“Serving the forgotten children of Africa”
Carolyn and Jim Driscoll Update May 5, 2009

Luke 9:23

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

“It’s pretty simple. Anyone who wants to come after Jesus into the kingdom of God---anyone who wants to be a Christian—has to face three commands: 1) deny himself, 2) take up his cross daily, and 3) follow Him. These words are hard to believe. They’re not consumer-friendly, or seeker sensitive. Christianity Lite is nowhere to be found. But this is not an obscure passage, or something different from other teachings of Jesus. These are principles that He taught consistently and repeatedly throughout His ministry, over and over again in all different settings.” (Quoted from page 6 of John MacArthur’s book *Hard to Believe*).

I encourage everyone receiving this email update to read this excellent work on the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In this work MacArthur shows how over and over Jesus points to the difficulty that results to our following Him. Jesus didn’t sugar-coat His message. He pointed to the fact that those who follow Him will face opposition from all who are not born again. He said that the whole world system would oppose us, our unsaved family would oppose us, friends would leave us trials would follow. He pointed to His own situation and said that His followers would experience the same. Yet, the vast majority of what we hear from the tele-preachers and tele-evangelists is that God is most concerned with our being healthy, wealthy and comfortable. In reality this is just the opposite of the truth. If we are not experiencing opposition in this world we are not proclaiming the same gospel that Jesus proclaimed. We may be misleading people by telling them how easy and trouble-free life with Jesus is. We lure the lost into a simple prayer and assure them of how wonderful life is and that God will now meet their perceived needs like a cosmic grandfather who gives us all the goodies. The problem with this is that it is a lie. God is not concerned primarily with our comfort; He is concerned about our obedience, our surrender, our self-denial, our taking up our cross daily to follow Him. He expects us to be in the world, but not of it.

The cross of Christ was a despicable death. Those who hung on a tree were considered the lowest of the low. It was a shameful death, but for our sakes a necessary one. Jesus was our Substitute. It should have been us there on the cross. The penalty of death was on us all for we are all sinners. But because of His grace and mercy and obedience to His Father it was Jesus hanging there and not us. All He wants of us is all of us. All our love, all our devotion, all our possessions, all our everything. He wants us to be totally surrendered to Him. Not a word did He speak of our self-esteem, self-worth, psychological well-being. “Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me.” My prayer is that we all come to this truth as a reality in our lives. The gospel is about Jesus, not us.

The timing of me reading this book is perfect. Over the last few months we have seen a storm cloud gather around us over the truth of the gospel. The trouble doesn't come from without, it comes from those professing Christ. However their gospel is not THE gospel. A lot of people here speak of Jesus, but when questioned about what the gospel is few can answer in a Biblical way. Please continue to pray that the true gospel will be proclaimed in power.

Here at the home we now have the gates up which makes it much easier to protect the assets from theft. Zack and Zoe (our pups) are now 7 months old and are right at 100 lbs. and 65 lbs. respectively. They love the children and will not let strangers enter the compound without an escort from within the compound. Though still just pups they have a protective guard dog instinct that is unbelievable. Also, they are great playmates with the kids. Since they are so big now they kids can't hurt them. They've become best buddies with the night guard, Prince. Prince says that he would rather have the dogs work with him than several men. He loves the fact that they can see and hear what he can't. He said even he feels safer at night knowing they are here.

We've just started back to school at Haven Academy, after spring break (a month long). It was great to be able to interact with the kids here much more than when they were in school. Several of the kids were able to visit family over the holiday which was really great for them to be able to reconnect with some of their family members.

The Family Rescue Program that we have written about previously is now underway. We picked the largest three co-op groups to start with because it impacted the largest number of women and children. Within these co-ops there are just over 50 women who have between them right at 200 children. The cost per family was only \$56.00 per woman in the form of an interest free loan that will be paid back over 10 months. These payments will be reinvested into new co-ops. Without this program these women and children would be destined to the streets, probably in Accra. So far, the women really seem to be taking their responsibilities to heart and are managing their business far better than we had expected. The Ghanaian manager of the local train station and about 200 railroad properties (formally controller for the Ghana Railroad) conducted the training for the program. He taught the ladies how to run a business, manage a checking account, guard the operating capital and use only the profit for living expenses. He stressed that if they ever take their capital for anything other than more product to sell they would be out of business the next day. All the women said they learned a lot about operating a business. Once they have paid the loan they can invest this portion of their profits to growing their business.

Each co-op has their own checking account and the accounts require three signatures of the three hand-picked co-leaders to make withdrawals on the account. By supplying them with the capital to buy in large quantities in each commodity they are able to double their profit for the same amount of work. All of them told me that this will allow them to stay in their homes and care for their children. The corn co-op with

17 women say they are now able to buy four truck loads of corn twice a week where before they each could only buy a bag of corn that weighed about 50 pounds. They buy direct from the large farms now and cut out any middle men. Please pray that God will allow these women to function as they should so that this program can be expanded. Only as this is successful will we be able to continue with other commodity groups.

I can't begin to put into words the blessings of the Jesus Film showings have been. We have had an estimated 500 professions of faith in Christ in four months. The hard work is just now beginning. We are attempting to do follow-up with all the villages. Up in the Northern Region of Ghana there are now Christians in many of the villages we went to with the gospel. We have worked with two great young men who are members of a local Baptist Church in Wa. Since I live 13 hours drive away there is no way I can do all the follow-up discipleship. These two men will go but they have no transportation. Fred agreed that he would fund one motorcycles if I could get one for the other. I had been told by the men in a Sunday School class at Memorial Baptist Church that if I ever had an unexpected need for anything to let them know. I called Cliff Fretwell, a dear friend and co-teacher of the class and told him the situation. He presented it the next day and on Monday called to say the class had committed to fund the other cycle. I am absolutely blown away by the generosity of these men. So, in just a couple of weeks we have the transportation costs covered for these two saints to assist with the follow-up and these new Christians are not left without discipleship. Praise God for his wondrous working through all of you who are with us in this ministry.

Do continue to pray for the funding of this ministry to unreached people groups. We had no idea before coming here that this ministry would come about. God has just flung open the doors to minister to and with young men who have a desire to reach these unreached villages but have not had the means to do it. My desire is to be able to follow up in these areas once a month to assist these young men in reaching new villages and in training them for the work of ministry. The added cost for this travel is about \$500 per month. God has opened the door and we know he will provide the funding for anything he calls us to do. If you would care to assist in this particular ministry to unreached people please designate that on your gifts as Driscoll's unreached village outreach when you send in your gift. We must be careful to not hinder the Family Rescue Program by funding this outreach. To this point we have funded the travel with personal funds we brought when we came. That is now depleted so God will raise up the support for what He has given us to do.

As I look at the news on the internet and hear of what is happening in America, I ask, Lord where will the funding come from. But to date He has raised up His faithful army to supply all our needs. I thank all of you who have faithfully joined us in this work. I was reviewing our spreadsheet the other day on donations that have been given to this ministry. I noticed a very gracious donation by Slate Hill Baptist Church. This met our needs just when we needed it the most. Thank you folks for giving. Thank you all for making it possible for us to be here serving the poorest of the poor. Thank you for allowing us to share the gospel with people who have never heard the name Jesus. Thank you Lord for using these wonderful people for Your ministry.

I realize that I have been rather long and exceeded my two page rule, but I have one last story I would like to share with you all. Fred Huffman and Pastor Sammy (Chaplain of the Haven of Hope Home) and I had shown the Jesus film here locally and were asked to come and follow-up by answering questions for the folk. One of the elders of this village said that there were several churches in the area and that they were constantly fighting with one another and that maybe we could help by answering questions. Fred was very sick that morning, but came along to pray for us as we spoke to the people. God had given me some thoughts on the unity of the body that I shared before taking any questions. I emphasized God's desire for true believers to be in unity, but not at the expense of His truth.

After sharing these thoughts we took many questions and noticed some of the people left. It was after I mentioned the working of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It turns out they were Jehovah's Witnesses. I felt proud that they didn't want to stay, I knew we were doing something right.

Several asked if we would start a church. They committed that they would come if we started one. I told them that we didn't know anything about the local churches, but that we preferred to work with existing churches when they were available and were true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All of a sudden several men started arguing intensely. Pastor Sammy ran up and tried to stop what was sure to be a blood letting. All of these men had come from the fields with their machetes in hand. He was getting nowhere so I ran up among them and yelled out, "This is exactly what I just talked about; Christians expending more energy fighting one another than our real enemy, Satan!" I then pointed to each of them and declared, "He's not the enemy, he's your brother". Fred said that sitting on the sidelines at this point He knew they were going to put me in a dinner pot. He jokingly told me that at that point if the mob attacked me, He was going to run over and beg them to get out of the way so he could punch me too, so that he would be assured of not being turned on. He said that Sammy and he would have just had to join in on the flogging. He comforted me later saying that he knew that God had numbered my days and that if they had got the best of me he knew where I would be.

Fortunately, for me the site of an abolo (big), old, abrone (white man) pointing at them and yelling at the top of his lungs what Jesus would think of their conduct seemed to have a calming effect. Since I'm now writing this update . . . you know that I wasn't invited for dinner.

To be totally honest with you I have felt like I am living in the book of Acts. Reaching people everywhere we go and having so much opportunity to serve, and facing opposition by those claiming to be part of the body of Christ. We truly have been blessed.

Serving In Ghana, West Africa
Carolyn and Jim Driscoll

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