

Every Child Ministries

“Serving the forgotten children of Africa”

Carolyn and Jim Driscoll Update October 11, 2006

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:15-19a)

The apostle Paul revealed to the church at Ephesus his prayer for them as he heard of their faith in the Lord. Many of you on our mail list are old friends and family and I have known of your faith in the Lord for many years. Others on our mail list are new friends that we have been privileged to meet in recent weeks and months. As we have traveled to speak to many of you about our calling, this has been our prayer for you. We have encouraged you to seek the Lord to see what He is calling you to do in regard to your service in your own churches and with regard to Carolyn and myself in our ministry with Every Child Ministries. It truly is our desire that you follow God’s leading for your life.

Many of you have responded to God’s call to support us. We can’t begin to thank you for that commitment. We will forever thank God for your partnering with us to make our ministry in Africa a reality. Also, we realize that many of you would like to support us financially, yet find yourself in a place that you cannot do so now. We ask that you would all would pray for us as the Lord places us on your hearts as we continue to speak wherever our Lord opens the door.

Carolyn and I realize very well that this ministry that God has called us to is not just a calling on our lives, but also all those that are sending us. The apostle Paul made it clear in his teachings that his ministry was made possible as a result of those who supported him faithfully as he planted churches and visited and encouraged churches in the regions he visited. We likewise know that we cannot go to the mission field without the sacrifices many of you are making on our behalf. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Over the last month we have had the privilege to speak at the Aversboro Road Baptist Church in Garner, NC, to the Charlottesville Chapter of the International Fellowship of Christian Businessmen and numerous one on one meetings.

I was tremendously blessed by the folks at Aversboro Road Baptist. Carolyn was not able to go, due to the death of her great aunt and the funeral being on the Sunday we were to present our ministry at Aversboro. On Saturday there was a golf outing for my Uncle Leonard’s Sunday School class. Afterwards, we got to fellowship over dinner at a great North Carolina style barbecue restaurant. On Sunday morning we had a great Sunday School class and Worship service. I was given about ten minutes of the Sunday School class where I shared my personal testimony of my salvation and a little that lead up to our call to Africa. I was given the entire evening service to present our ministry, which was a blessing to me when several folks came up afterwards and said that they felt

God speaking to them about our ministry.

I am so thankful to Dr. Harvey H. Whaley for his allowing me to come to Aversboro Road Baptist. Also, I praise God for his faithfulness to proclaim the truth of God’s Word. One of the greatest blessings I have experienced visiting some of the churches has been to witness how God is very actively working through these churches. Dr. Whaley, you and your congregation, blessed me so much that Carolyn insists that we come back just so that she can meet you all. Praise God for His work through you and your congregation.

Uncle Leonard and Paula, I am so thankful for you working so hard to help us set this up. I was so blessed to be able to spend time with you both. Also, thank you for continuing to make contacts for us. God bless you for your work.

I got to speak to the International Fellowship of Christian Businessmen through the efforts of Larry Cassell. I met Larry at the Albemarle Fair when I was working there for Beverage Tractor and Equipment. When Larry walked by, we made eye contact and immediately we both felt that we needed to talk to one another. Our meeting was one of those Divine appointments that we have all experienced. I immediately grew to love this brother in Christ because of his obvious love for our Lord. We had about three discussions during that week. He introduced me to several people that week, one of them being another member of the IFCB. About a month later I got a call from Larry asking me to come on Oct. 7th.

Meeting with these men was a great time of fellowship in the Lord. It was obvious from many of these men’s prayers and comments that they truly love the Lord Jesus Christ. My spirit was uplifted by the fellowship and the encouraging words I received from many of the men. There is a possibility of speaking at several of these men’s churches, God willing.

We also were asked to present our ministry to the Kings Daughters Nursing Home in Staunton, VA. We were amazed at the heart the folks seem to have for the less fortunate. One little lady, who I know has next to nothing, gave us ten dollars (though we had not mentioned money to them). Carolyn and I are often reluctant to accept money from those who are so poor themselves, until we remember that our God is seeking to bless them through their obedience.

Several folks have expressed a desire to help us in the ministry but did not know how to make donations. At the end of this letter there is a mailing address where donations and monthly pledges can be sent.

Several of you have expressed concern that you are fearful of making a monthly pledge because of fear that you would miss a month and we would not have enough money to make it through that month. I’ll turn to one of the world’s most respected Christian financial consulting ministries to help you understand principles of Christian giving. Following is an excerpt from the Crown Financial Ministries web-site:

Faith promise

Faith promises are commitments to give a certain amount if the Lord provides it. This allows churches and ministries to prepare good, logical budgets for the year. With faith promises, people make commitments to give if the funds are or become available. It is understood that if God doesn’t provide the funds

there is no obligation to give (Hebrews 11:1). Committing to a faith promise is scriptural and acceptable to the Lord. All ministries and churches must have a sense of how much money they should expect in the coming year so they can establish a budget (spending plan) and financial accountability. Faith promises give ministries this ability.

Conclusion

When giving beyond the tithe—especially when giving for specific ministry causes or projects: parachurch ministry, church debt elimination, church building program, missions trip, and so on—people need to give and commit to an amount out of their abundance (2 Corinthians 8:14) and not out of emotional appeal or guilt. God doesn't want us to give until we are poor, unless it is to improve our lives spiritually. Faith promises represent a balanced approach to giving that encourages people to commit to giving but at the same time provide financial guidelines for future ministry funding.

There are a several conclusions we can draw from this. First, giving to ministries outside your church should not supplant (supersede) your giving to your church. Secondly, a faith promise is a promise to give only as the Lord supplies. You're committing to give only if the Lord provides it to you. Thirdly, a pledge is a promise and should be made only if you already have the funds and know beyond doubt that you will have the funds when needed to meet that commitment.

For those of you who have a God-given desire to support us financially, but have a concern about not having the funds I would suggest that you pray about what God would have you trust Him for and then make that not as a pledge but a faith promise commitment. This could be done by signifying your intent on the ECM commitment card or by note to Every Child Ministries (address below) as to your intent to support us as a faith promise. For most of you this will be the preferred way of supporting any missions effort.

Carolyn and I are approaching this whole endeavor as a faith in God to provide for our needs, both personal and for ministry needs. In faith we are confident that Our Lord will

provide what is needed.

Another thing we would ask is if you are intending on supporting us financially, and you know the amount, it would be very beneficial if you would inform Every Child Ministries at the address below. This will help us to determine where we are in developing our support needs.

There is one last thing I'll mention about our financial support. Some of you have expressed a desire to see a detailed breakdown of our needs. We've have been reluctant to talk about specifics of our needs because we want those who are supporting us to be doing it because God is leading you this way, not out of a sense of guilt, but out of obedience to God in His call on your life. I met with a gentleman during the last week that had said he wanted to support us, but wanted to know what our needs are. I sat down with him and gave the specifics so he would know where his money would be going. If any of you find yourself in this place, we would be happy to share this information with you.

Partners, please pray for us this month as we continue sharing our hearts about God's call on our lives. Also, pray for me (Jim) as I meet with the head of a ministry that is focusing on feeding children in third world countries. I mentioned this in our last letter and now have a meeting scheduled for October the 24th. Also, we're back in Rock Hill meeting with Liberty Baptist Church in Rock Hill, SC on the 29th. Pray that God will bless this meeting.

As I close I would like to thank a special thirty-something single young man, who I won't name because I believe he would not want the praise, who gave us an unexpected gift that amounts to about 12.5% of our first years support. I know this was a tremendous sacrifice for him. Also, we received another sizable gift that we are praising God for. Thank all of you who have given materially and in your prayers.

May God richly bless you as you serve Him with gladness and thanksgiving.

Tax exempt donations should be sent to:

Every Child Ministries
P.O. Box 810
Hebron, IN 46341

Designate gifts for the "Driscoll's account"



Carolyn and Jim can be reached at:
540-337-5558 Home
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