



MINISTRY UPDATE: A NEW GROUNDEDNESS

Inside this issue:	
MINISTRY UPDATE	1
WE ARE JUST SHEEP	1
MONTENEGRIN CALL	2
COSTA RICAN CALL	2
PLANNED MINISTRY	3
THE GLORY OF MAN	3
MINISTRY INFO	4

This past year was filled with encouragement. We have seen a steady increase in funding from donors to meet the requests for our ministry. Our support has increased from \$5,007 in 2000 to \$50,662 last year. The current year ending June 30, 2005 we will have received close to \$65,000 in cash and pledged support.

A new groundedness has taken place as most ministry takes off from the relationships at Immanuel, our home church. The Conference is open to understanding more about the new wineskin we are seeing. The overseer relationship of Glendon Blosser for Lawrence has provided immense blessing and maturing for him. Others are seeing this groundedness and are coming to us for directional input and assistance.

The current work with Ron and Blanche Nyce in Montenegro is growing. They were sent out last June and continue, see inside story.

During August 23-30, 2004 a small team consisting of Milford and Carolyn Lyndaker and Lawrence left for Costa Rica. The Gorton family living in San Isidro, south of San Jose, requested we come and observe their ministry. We heard and observed and agreed to support them \$1,100 a month for 2005.

From the Costa Rican trip we heard a loud call to study the book of Mark. So in October Lawrence began teaching a series on Mark at Immanuel. The Willard Swartley text Mark: The Way for All Nations was also used. Our class grew as we saw the timing of Jesus.

We saw freshly in the Gospel of Mark that the Galilean ministry was located in Capernaum, the crossroads of trade. Jesus purposely located here for a special season of preparing those He would summon. He chose them as they were and used all of their past to prepare them for their future.

The groundedness we are experiencing is knowing and understanding the principles of call. We see a Divine plan of positioning the body of Christ at the crossroads of trade. We are seeing our vocations as a new wineskin to share the Gospel from.



WE ARE JUST SHEEP

The reinstatement of Peter by Jesus has always given me hope. In John 21:15-19 we read of this tender exchange during the 40 days after His resurrection and prior to His being taken up to the right hand of the Father. In this exchange Jesus begins to show how He and His body will be the fulfillment of Ezekiel 34.

In verse 15 the word is *bosko* (feed) My lambs and in verse 17 it is *bosko* (feed) My sheep. But what about the word translated tend in verse 16. This word is *poimaina* meaning to shepherd My sheep. The word *poimaina* has a rich broad meaning. It means to shepherd, to tend, guiding, guarding and folding the flock. It implies the whole

office of the shepherd with the primary goal of leading it to nourishment and growth. The word *bosko* is usually reserved for just the eating function.

This word *poimania* is used in Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 9:7, 1 Peter 5:2, Jude 1:12, Rev 2:27, Matt 2:6 and Luke 17:7. As one reads these along with Ezekiel 34

we can conclude that the act of shepherding is not for personal gain. The responsible shepherds know this and delight in the role.

Another observation is that the shepherd doesn't reproduce: the sheep do this. The biblical word picture of discipling and teaching others emerges and we become the sheep of His pasture.

MONTENEGRIN CALL UPDATE



Ron and Blanche Nyce were sent out to Gusjne last June. The small town of Gusjne is just north of Albania and south of Hungary. Prior to June Ron had been traveling back and forth between the US and Montenegro in hopes of getting a slaughtering plant (originally begun by US AID) established and exporting meat.

It has been Ron's call to set up a distribution market for the area's farmers. After the project received a substantial government grant to outfit the plant it was forward at full speed. Since then things have sputtered because of unreliable local contractors. The heavy snows this past winter caused a holding pen roof to collapse. Although it has been frustrating at times the core hope

has not wavered.

Some of the bright spots in the work they continue to be the relationships forming among the residents. The Balkans are a rough place and have hardened many a person over time. Yet despite this the people are drawn to the Jesus in Ron and Blanche. This past January and the one previous the Nyce's distributed US packed backpacks for the Montenegrin children of Gusjne. This mini project has opened the hearts of the locals.

Ron and Blanche have concluded recently that this time in January, over the Orthodox Christmas (Jan 7 or so), is so important that they are planning to maintain an active presence there from the end of December through this important holiday each year. They will return to the States and resume work in the Springs.

This past January the Nyce's had an open house during the 7th and 8th and almost 50 persons came. One of the strange things is the fact that they

refuse to eat and when the Nyces go to their houses they force them to eat. This matter will need continued prayer for understanding and guidance.

Signs of encouragement are all around; especially on a trip to Skopje Macedonia to the south that has shown a possible contact to widen the distribution of meat. Ron has just recently found out that the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions is holding their Mediterranean Missionaries Retreat this June in Montenegro. What a blessing and confirmation.

A further sign of confirmation is the wide support received in donations this past year for the Montenegrin Call. Last May we responded in faith to send the Nyces in hopes to raise \$40,000. We have received about \$39,000. We are set to begin the next phase of raising funds to finish the work on the plant and be operational by this summer. This is an exciting project and we encourage all those reading this newsletter to prayerfully consider in assisting us to reach the Balkans for Jesus. Raising sheep is so ripe a metaphor for this region.

COSTA RICAN CALL



A recent call to plant a church in Costa Rica came as a Nehemiah's Call team went down to San Isidro to spend time with Chris and Joy Gorton. The Gortons are from Titusville Florida and have left the US and are living in Costa Rica permanently. They purchased a secluded space high above a ridge overlooking the city.

This couple and children are at work building relationships with the locals. Since they are fluent in Spanish communicating is not a barrier. As we observed them we noticed a missionary gift.

Our team went with the purpose of prayerfully observing, listening and discerning where God is at work. We held daily Bible studies and responded in times of prayer. We had a time of debriefing in San Jose and heard their need for a committed group to support them. We were led to respond in faith to support them \$1,100 per month for 2005.

Since returning to the States

we have seen their relationships growing. They have testified of one deciding to surrender their life to Jesus. A door has opened with Randy Sperger of FEDEMEC in San Jose. Randy has worked extensively among Muslim nations. Randy has begun a school of church planting among nationals.

During their Christmas break they shared at Immanuel Mennonite Church. The people responded and we were mutually encouraged. A briefing with Loren Horst, President of VMBM, has taken place on efforts in Costa Rica and abroad.



A recent report here in April 2005 from Chris Gorton reveals blooming. A work team from Emery in Alabama put up the framework for a second floor in their house and a ruffed in bathroom for a cabina. All of this will open the opportunity to hold teaching and ministry sessions at their home. If you feel led to assist them further know that about \$2,000 is needed for completion of the renovations and \$750 for solar batteries.

PLANNED MINISTRY FOR THE NEXT YEAR

There are many opportunities around us for the upcoming year. The main challenge is what to say yes to. As a minister I want to use my gifts whenever I can. The fulfillment occurs when my vocation can provide ministry encounters.

We have been invited to begin exploring how to strengthen the churches in Belize. Hubert Stephen, a pastor in PA, has begun a ministry called Healthy Churches Belize. We anticipate to go with him at the end of June for an exploratory trip. Since he spent much time in Belize he will provide the relationships and planning of the trip.

This spring and summer I will be teaching a series on the book of Romans at Immanuel. The teaching will be primarily for the adult Sunday school sessions and some Saturday sessions.

This will be a refreshing time for our congregation as the book of Romans prepares us to understand the role of salvation and sanctification better. Since my style is expositing from the Bible the richness of the original language is life transforming.

As a minister I love to study the Bible. I am adding to our study and resource collection the rich texts of our past scholars. I have been reading more from F.B. Meyer, J.H. Jowett, Charles Spurgeon and other turn of the century Bible teachers. The richness of their study unclouded by modern thought and contextualism provide for a sudden encounter with the Truth.

Later in the fall our family will travel to visit the work in Montenegro. We are planning a trip during the last two weeks of September. We will fly to Budapest

and the Nyces will pick us up to visit them for 4-5 days. We will tour the meat packing facility and visit neighbors. It will give us a good chance to feel what they do. A major part of our time will be to pray on the ground with insight. We will head south toward Macedonia and visit a potential business contact for Montemesso LLC (/Ron's Company in Montenegro). We plan to stretch down through Thessalonika, Corinth and leave from Athens. These points in southern Greece will allow us to pray through a potential distribution route for the business. The time in these Greek cities will allow me to study the context of Paul's epistles and the book of Acts. I anticipate an enhanced enrichment for bringing the words of the New Testament to life. Please pray for our family as we go and show support to the Nyces and explore the Balkans.

THE GLORY OF MAN: GRACE BESTOWER

Over the past few years my family has visited early American president's homes here in Virginia. I have studied early American history and evaluated its spiritual implications in depth. I have weighed the evidence and concluded, as in every culture that ascribes to divine origin, there are more myths than truth. The truth lies more with what is not being said about the context of beliefs and rituals of Old World Europe and at the inception of the Revolution.

As we toured Mount Vernon we followed a little path to the "slave graveyard." Here it was obvious how our first president viewed himself as superior to others. He must have viewed himself as receiving (from something) the divine right to rule over other humans or think he was permitted a special privilege.

This same viewpoint was shared by James Madison and James Monroe. These men clearly demonstrated the same belief by their actions. Madison too had a separate grave yard for his

slaves. Now Monroe did something more bizarre. He actually participated in the shipping of slaves out of the country. This is how the country of Liberia was born. The capital Monroevia bears the name of this president. Here again we see the true roots of racial superiority.

Where did this belief of superiority come from? The early founders were heavily influenced by classical literature and the age of the Renaissance. Many of these texts were written in Koine Greek which led them to the original New Testament writings as well. This mixture brought about a distinct assimilation for the New Rome envisioned by Washington and others.

Further research into the context of the Revolution reveals a deeper bond. This bond is known as Masonic membership; ratified by an oath and ritual practices. Largely secretive at the time modern adherents downplay the effect of this fraternal club. An inspection of the beliefs of the Masons shows something not

Christian at all but more sinister in the foundational declarations of this nation.

In the early American colonial period Masonic membership was exclusively white male. This is similar to the ancient mystery cults of the Roman era. Especially, Mithraism a religion that appealed to military personnel and the elite males of society. Mithraism had seven levels of initiation and was passed down from father to son.

During colonial times the beginnings of towns up and down the Atlantic seaboard and West included a Masonic Lodge. Many of the influential leaders, even church members and elders, were heavily involved in membership.

It is not surprising then that the Masonic ideals became the fabric of New Rome. The assimilation of religious faiths, education, prosperity and benevolence into a new man. The fruit of this being proponents or defenders of personal and corporate liberty. Individuals believing they are divinely superior who have received their freedom from this system naturally become "grace bestowers" for the glory of man.



NEHEMIAH'S CALL, INC.

P.O. Box 95
Broadway, VA 22815



WHAT IS NEHEMIAH'S CALL..

Nehemiah's Call is a Christian organization serving the body of Christ through Bible teaching, prayer research, discipling and equipping others. The director is Lawrence R. Yoder, CPA, MAM, who has been preparing prayer strategies since 1998 and organized this ministry July 1, 2000.

He was originally commissioned publicly on September 17, 2000 by Cornerstone Church & Ministries. Lawrence was licensed, July 13, 2003, by the Virginia Mennonite Conference (special ministry category) as a preacher/teacher. The congregation of Immanuel Mennonite Church, with Basil Marin, nurtures Lawrence and provides counsel and oversight with the board.

This organization shares its New Wineskin curriculum of Bible teachings; preparing and teaching others toward global missions. We are committed to train, teach and equip others where they are at so they can contribute immediately fresh eyes and ears in a team setting. We are currently ministering with the local church in a variety of missionary contexts here in the USA and globally.

This ministry relies on financial and prayer support from individuals and like-minded ministries. A donor base and group of financial contributors is desired for effective ministry. The major costs of this ministry are travel, research, printing materials, postage, and other publications. All contributions are tax deductible under IRC 501 (c) 3.

When Lawrence is not fulfilling ministry duties he may be at Horizon Accountants a full service public accounting and tax firm owned and operated by him as a 17 season CPA. Or he may be on his beloved Packsaddle Golf Course. He is testing with others a new wineskin approach toward evaluating and responding to the temporal marketplace called Horizon Opportunities. This approach will combine biblical teaching, prayer, prophetic discernment and wisdom based positioning for Christian entrepreneurs so they may respond to the call of Jesus.

Please pray for Lawrence as he begins to write a new book this summer, combining the role of Titus, finances and the often missed teaching on "Paul's collection".

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Glendon Blosser (overseer)

Bowie Curry

Pauline Lehman

Milford Lyndaker

Homer Myers

Mark Perri

Bonnie Yoder

We share offices and telephone with Horizon Accountants at 456 S. Main St in Broadway Virginia.

Phone: 540.896.3330

Cell: 540.421.7729

Email: Kingscup@Nehemiahscall.org

Visit our website at www.nehemiahscall.org