

October 19, 2008

Dear friends and family,

We hope this finds all of you well. Here we are in the fall season and Christmas will be fast approaching. As you know, we mentioned in our summer letter that we are anticipating taking a family mission trip to Soto La Marina, Mexico in December. We want to take this opportunity to tell you about the trip and again thank those of you who have faithfully continued to send your monthly commitment to SMI. We cannot express our gratitude enough! Your financial support since June has allowed us to incorporate the ministry and to build a website. We thank you for investing in SMI and partnering to help us do these necessary things. We would also like to take a moment to share with you some things God has spoken and placed in our hearts.

One of the things God has been saying to us is the need for people to have not just a head knowledge of Jesus, but a heart knowledge. He really wants His people to have His own heart. Just as David was a man after God's own heart, that is what He still desires today. We believe He wants His children to grieve after the things He grieves for. What if we really put ourselves and our families in situations and circumstances that other families are going through. If we truly imagined going through the struggles that others face, it would put our own lives into a different perspective.

Jesus performed many miracles and it was written in a number of those instances that He had great compassion for the people. This is one of the keys to experiencing great miracles and a great harvest in our own lives—**compassion**. **Psalm 103:4** tells us that the Lord crowns us with love and compassion as one of His many wonderful benefits. It is our desire to meet people where they are and tell them of all of the Father's benefits including His great love and compassion for His people. That is what broken and hurting people want to hear most. **They want to know that there is someone who cares and loves them.** In **Ezekiel 33**, God has appointed him as the watchman over the house of Israel. He tells Ezekiel if he does not speak out to these people to turn from their ways and they should die for their sins, then he will be held accountable.

**This is a sobering thought for us today.** God has called all of us to "speak" to someone and in some cases we may find it difficult or almost impossible, but are we willing to accept responsibility for those people? We had to ask ourselves this question. God has called all of us to something—some to foreign lands, some local outreach, some intercessors and financial partners or any combination of these! Our desire is for all of God's people to seek Him and discover their gifting and calling to further the kingdom for His glory. We ask that you prayerfully seek God in considering what your role may be in your partnership with SMI. If you feel God is leading you to foreign missions, please e-mail and let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

**Our trip to Soto La Marina in December is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>.** It is an evangelistic outreach for children and youth in the local community. There will be daily services and activities for them to attend. It can actually be more fruitful to get the young people saved since many times they may be more open to what God is telling them. As a result, their family members will see what God is doing and they too will make a decision for Christ! We will also be taking food, basic living items, and toys for the children for Christmas. We are excited for Seth and Aaron to go on this trip. Last Christmas we participated in the Angel Tree ministry and it was a blessing for them to give to children that might not otherwise receive gifts. **The cost for the four of us which includes air travel, lodging, food and items/gifts to bless the families is \$5000.**

We understand that many of us have felt the economic crunch of our times recently. The following scriptures (from the Message Bible) have been an encouragement to us and we hope they encourage you.

**Deut.7:12-13**—When you, on your part, obey his directives, keeping and following them, God, on his part, will keep the covenant of loyal love that he made with your ancestors: He will love you, bless you, and increase you.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:8**—God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

**God's desire** is for you to **take part in the harvest** by sending those who will touch lives spiritually and physically. Please be faithful in your prayer time to seek the Lord as to how you can help with His great commission. Not only will it be greatly appreciated by us, but most importantly will be honored by God who will supply all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19).

Your special gifts can be mailed to: **SMI, PO Box 576, Nicholasville, KY, 40340 (checks payable to SMI)** or you can also give online at **www.smiministry.org** with a major debit/credit card. We are always available to pray for anything you are believing for. Those prayer requests can also be made known on the website as well.

We also would like to ask you to be in prayer for an international crusade scheduled for July 6-12, 2009. We have been asked by Evangelism International Ministries to join them by taking part in a citywide crusade in Kenya. We will give you further updates as to specific needs in the future. We thank you for continuing to keep us in your prayers!

In Christ,

Bryan and Lisa  
Servanthood Ministries International

