



# ROCK <sup>of</sup> AGES MINISTRIES

*"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord." II Corinthians 4:5*

Dr. Terry R. Ellis, President | Dr. Ricky Dunsford, Executive Vice President



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**"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." Psalm 145:9**

For those that have followed our family newsletter know that at the beginning of every year I take the time to reflect on what the Lord has done for our family; this great ministry he has placed us in and for the many great supporters he has placed in our lives. The above verse came to mind as I sat down to right this now thirtieth 'first of the year' newsletter. The realization that the Lord's tender mercies over all his work challenges me and Judy to head into a new year knowing that by the Lord's mercies we can press on in His work. Thank you again for a great year of working together with us.

I praise the Lord we are blessed to serve with a ministry that sees thousands saved every year. I praise the Lord that he allowed me personally to see 75 souls saved through preaching and personal soul winning last year. With over 60,000 miles traveled both by car and plane, the Lord's mercies kept us safe.

January started off with Judy and I both in the emergency room with a very severe virus. There was some fear that I may had been having some heart issues but praise the Lord after several tests I am doing fine. I was then contacted by my sister that my mother had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and procedure for stints were ordered. We headed home to spend a couple days with mom. Please continue to pray for Mom, she is having other medical issues too.

January was a very busy month starting out with a special meeting with many of our missionaries working throughout America and overseas. Major changes are taking place world-wide in both prisons and schools, with the lack of security personnel and ongoing political unrest, we are constantly having to make adjustments to maintain our presence in government institutions. Dr. Ellis and I and several of our senior leaders met with the men to lay the ground work for the future of the ministry. It was a great meeting and I feel the Lord will both keep the doors open for the Rock of Ages and it is obvious that new doors are opening.

It was then off to work with the revival teams in Pearl, MS at Central Mississippi Correction. It was a good meeting and a great joy working with several of our missionaries and volunteers. This institution houses over 3800 inmates which include a women's section, a juvenile and men's section. Praise the Lord at the end of the week we saw 63 men, women and young people saved.

It is then off to the Rock of Ages home office to meet with our international staff. There are some exciting things taking place overseas and many plans and decisions need to be made this month. Help us pray, we have building project plans in Europe, Africa and South America this year. The Lord has opened the door to reach prisoners in the South Pacific Islands and has sent a seasoned missionary family to work with us. We hope to begin a work in Argentina and South Korea this year. I personally will need to make three trips overseas this year, pray the Lord gives me good health and supplies the additional funds this year to make these trips.

**PRAY!**

The last full month of February is our tenth annual Alabama Prison Campaign. We presently have over 125 volunteers signed up for the meeting. We have over 7000 inmates to reach which include juvenile and women's institution. Please help us pray that all goes well and the Lord gives many souls. Many of the volunteers and missionaries will be traveling great distances for this meeting. Pray the Lord give safety to all.

Judy and I thank you all again for your faithful support and prayers.

In Christ's Service,

*Dr. Ricky Dunsford*  
Ricky and Judy Dunsford

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*"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." 2Ti 4:6*

It is best to read the entire fourth chapter of 2 Timothy in order to understand the exhortation to young Timothy. Paul realizes his earthly ministry is now at a close. He states he has fought a good fight and that he had finished the course laid out for him. He then begins to tell the young preacher to be aware of those that had been unfaithful to him and a hindrance to the work. However, at the end of the chapter Paul lifts up several that had been a partner in his ministry and encouragement along the way. As we look back over the years and see the many great servants of our Lord that have blessed our lives, we can only give thanks to such a gracious and loving Savior.

It was March 1991 in a prison meeting in Parchman, MS I first met then Pastor Bobby Sizemore. Brother Bob (as I have always called him) had made a couple trips overseas. I personally as an adult had never traveled overseas much less done any ministry. When Dr. Gearis announced an open door to reach prisoners in Romania was available, he asked for a team of Rock of Ages men to take on the challenge. There were three of us that said we would go and Brother Bob said he would like to go along with us. It was then May of 1991, we would make a trip that would lead Brother Bob to resign his church and join us in reaching prisoners around the world. This already twenty-seven-year pastor would step out on a journey that would lead him around the world training national missionaries and develop prison works. For the past 17 years, Brother Bob has concentrated on the country of Brazil. Through the hand of the Lord and the diligence of his servant, the work in Brazil is by far one of the greatest ministries of the Rock of Ages. Brother Bob purchased an office complex, developed the Prisoner's Bible Institute that is approaching 2000 men studying the Word of God daily. There are six fulltime missionary families now serving in the country and another young family has made application to come with us to reach the public school children of Brazil.

Brother Bob was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in which the doctors have only given him a few weeks. Brother Bob is responsible for tens of thousands of prisoners being saved and discipled. His time of departure is at hand. Brother Bob helped many foreign national workers and missionaries every month financially so they could diligently reach men and women behind prison bars. This great preacher and soul winner will be missed. **Who will step up and take his place?**

Please help us pray for laborers!

Pray for new financial supporters to carry on the work!

Pray for the open doors worldwide!

Thank you again this month for your faithfulness to partner with us.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford  
Executive Vice President