



ROCK of 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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January 2020 Newsletter

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

The word 'mark' in the above verse is defined by many Greek dictionaries as the word 'purpose'. I began playing organized football when I was nine years old and played all the way through high school. I was a mediocre player at best but the lessons I learned are still a part of my daily life. Certain disciplines, character traits and being a team player are just some of the life lessons I learned. One thing that always stuck in my mind was the purpose of the game and that was the game was never over until the final whistle blew and time had run out. Many seasons ended but there was always the next year. There came a day as a senior I would play my last game, but until that day I would keep practicing, conditioning and preparing for the next game and season. The apostle Paul is making it clear that the game is not ended, there is another season to prepare for and the prize is not yet obtained. In April of this year Judy and I will begin 33 years of missionary service with the Rock of Ages. There is no doubt we are entering into another season of life. Many of you have made this journey with us through prayer, financial help and friendships. Together we have seen the Lord allow us to serve Him and to see great things accomplished for his glory. One thing I did learn from playing ball was whether the season ended with a winning or losing season, the purpose had not ended. The purpose was not behind us but ahead. Judy and I want to thank all of you that have ran this great race with us for so many years and to all that joined in the race in recent days. We have decided to enter the 2020 season keeping our eyes on the purpose of the high calling of our Lord.

December and January are busy months of planning and preparation. Much of our ministries requires dealing with government institutions which means constant changes in regulations, personnel and schedules. We spent the first couple weeks of December meeting with our foreign and State based leaders. It is always exciting hearing from the men on the field. There are so many open doors worldwide. Every one of the men had the same prayer request, pray the Lord will supply the finances needed for more material and expenses to reach more institutions and pray diligently the Lord will send more laborers in 2020. Please join us in these prayer request.

Judy and I were on the road 27 days in December and will be the first 20 days of January. Please continue to pray for our safety as we travel.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford

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January 2020 Titus

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," Philippians 3:13

Recently, I decided I would do a major cleaning of my office and study at home. I began to clear out my book shelf of books that I knew I would probably never read again and that would surely be of help to someone else. While going through things I found pictures of my children when we first joined the Rock of Ages 32 years ago. I looked at the pictures and began to remember those early years. Before I knew it time had passed and I had to pack up and leave again. Though the memories were special, I noticed that I left an unfinished job that would have to wait several weeks before I could get back to it again. I truly don't want to forget the great memories of the past, especially the blessings of the Lord. However, I found myself stuck in the past and no longer reaching forward. I am amazed at how the Lord blessed our overseas endeavors again last year. This coming May will mark the 29th year since we made our first trip abroad and we by His grace will begin the thirtieth year of reaching the world. So many great memories and much to be thankful for, however we have not apprehended yet. With over 7 billion people on the planet we must continue to reach further than ever. Thanks to your faithful partnership we have seen great things accomplished. I am looking forward to pressing on together to reach those things that are before us.

2020 Goals

Begin development of the Prison Prevention Program in several countries. Brother Walter Terrell has served with the PPP Department as a missionary with the Rock of Ages for over 10 years. After much prayer and faithfully working here in America, Brother Terrell believes the Lord would have him join the foreign team and help work with local Baptist churches to develop weekly programs in their public schools. Our goal is to begin development in at least four countries.

At the writing of this letter we are wait for a couple in Brazil to secure a loan for the purchase of our present office facility. If all goes through in the next few weeks, we will begin laying the foundation at the new facility. Please pray that we can secure a place nearby to rent while the construction is underway. With over 2000 students studying the Prisoner's Bible Institute and daily operation of a ministry with 7 missionary families and employees the need of the new facility is essential to the work.

The Andrew family has received their renewed visa for Papua New Guinea and will be in the country in the next few weeks. Brother Andrew spent 19 years planting churches and training national pastors. He and his family have joined the Rock of Ages and will begin working with the national men to develop an ongoing jail and prison work. It is our desire to see the Prisoner's Bible Institute and the Prison Prevention program introduced in these countries this year.

After 25 faithful years of working in the prisons of Romania, Brother Mircea Cristian believes the Lord is leading to develop the House of Hope Ministry. The House of Hope will be a place where ex-female inmates will have a place to transition back into society. We believe these houses can be organized in various location throughout the country. Ongoing involvement of local churches will be vital as these ladies will not only need physical help, but many of them will need to be reunited with their families.

Please pray not only for these great opportunities but remember the ongoing works world-wide.

Thanks again for your faithfulness.

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