



# 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



*Dr. Ricky & Judy Dunsford*  
POB 164 Century, FL 32535

850/261-04 [rickydunsford@gmail.com](mailto:rickydunsford@gmail.com)

January-February Personal Newsletter 2020

*"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you." Exodus 12:2*

When the Lord spoke to Moses and declared to Israel that this was the beginning he used the Hebrew word 'rosh' which means at the top or it might be said this is the height of days. It was the beginning of the lunar cycle and it signified a new start.

I told myself I was going to pace myself in 2020. Well, seven church meetings, one school chapel, one prison meeting and 29 days on the road since January 1. I guess it is all how you define pacing yourself. It's hard to believe 32 years have passed since my family and I set out on this journey. Though our health my not always want to co-operate and at the end of every year I asked myself if I have another year left before our Lord return; I remember we are just getting started. Pray the Lord will continue to use us until he either calls us home or we meet him in the air.

The first week of the month we met with all the department representatives and coordinators for a time of preaching and teaching. It was a blessing not only to be a part of teaching but to hear from the leaders on the field. We worked to set goals and plan for 2020 and how to face every changing challenge of working with government institutions. We truly need the Lord to send forth laborers into this great harvest.

It was then a time of special executive staff meetings where we work on things that are vital to the ongoing ministries. With 19,000 students studying the Prisoner's Bible Institute, millions of pieces of literature to print, warehouse and distribute, printing presses need repairing and volunteers are needed to put material together and there is also the need to upgrade the financial software at the office so the missionaries and workers worldwide receive their much-needed support. We also have to acknowledge the ever-changing laws that affect the works in prison and schools. The week of updates and planning can seem at times overwhelming. But, praise the Lord for the laborers he has sent to the Rock of Ages. Judy and I are truly blessed to serve with such a great ministry.

As I write this letter Judy and I just dropped off a trailer load of material and Bibles for the annual Alabama Prison Campaign. With over 7000 men and women prisoners to reach and a team of 130 that have signed up to help, we are truly believing the Lord will do great things this year. We look forward to updating you on the results.

The end of last year we began building a new chapel facility that sits on the hill overlooking the Rock of Ages 74 acres. With the need of ongoing training and special meetings and the growth of the ministry, we needed a place to meet. Most of all we knew that the ministry needed a place where folks could join us throughout the year for special prayer meetings. Please hold this project in daily prayer. Pray the Lord will supply the remaining financial needs to finish this much needed facility.

## **Ricky and Judy's Health Update**

Many of you have been praying and we are truly thankful. Judy has just begun pain management and things appear to be helping greatly. Praise the Lord she has not needed any medications, it appears with a few injections and therapy she is headed for a slow but successful recovery. Of course, there is this ongoing heart rate issue with Ricky and another round of doctors. May be it is time for the pacemaker? Who can tell, a new ticker and I may have another million flyer miles in me.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support.

In Christ's Service,

*Dr. Ricky Dunsford*  
Ricky and Judy Dunsford

Post Office Box 2308 · Cleveland, TN · 37320  
(423) 479-3243 · [www.roapm.com](http://www.roapm.com)



*"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

### January-February Titus 2020

*"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;" 1 Corinthians 3:12*

It is hard to believe this May with the Rock of Ages will be 29 years since we made our first trip overseas as a ministry. It is much more sobering to think I was one of the original four men to make the trip. This year will be the beginning of 14 years since Dr. Gearis passed away and Dr. Ellis would take over as President of the ministry. I remember as I served for many years on Dr. Gearis' staff how he would quote the above verse. He shared with us that when he resigned his pastorate he was concerned about his ministry being one of gold, silver and precious stones. His desire was not to build a work for himself but for the Glory of the Lord. Today Dr. Ellis and the missionaries of the Rock of Ages carry on this dream that all that is built through temporal here is eternal in heaven. Thanks to all that partner with us through prayer, giving and volunteering as we work to build a work that will stand the test of time. Please join with us in prayer this year as we step out with several building projects.

### 2020 A Year of Building

#### Property in Guatemala

Missionaries Josh and Melissa Hill have been serving with the Rock of Ages in the country of Guatemala for the past 2 years. Brother Hill and his family have been used tremendously in the country. The Lord truly has given the family a gift to learn the language and already they are on their way to organizing their first church plant. While visiting the work this past November, we were able to meet with men working with prisoners and we learned that Brother Josh, due to his visa status, could begin preaching in the prison. One man stated it is not uncommon to have 1000 prisoners come out for services. Then, while visiting a local school Brother Josh was asked if he would come in every Thursday and speak to the students. With all that is going on we need a place for the church to meet and for the Rock of Ages to set up an office and warehouse to prepare for a national ministry. We have learned that even a vacant lot in the area we are working averages \$125,000 and a most existing buildings are between \$175,000 to \$250,000. The building where the church is now meeting is a very large three-story facility and would meet the needs of the ministry for years to come. The owner of the building has offered the building to the ministry for \$165,000. The realtor stated the place was worth at least \$250,000. PLEASE HELP US PRAY!! We would need to put \$50,000 down by the end of May and pay off the rest in 1 year.

#### Property in Romania

For over 25 years we have been working with women prisoners in Romania. We have been blessed of the Lord to help wives and moms be reunited with their families and to see them find a church where the family could serve together. We do praise the Lord for the many families that have been reached. However, for years we have asked by ladies that either have no family or they realize going back to their home town will only lead them back into a life of rebellion. It has been a burden for a long time to have a place for these ladies to come and live and help them be reintegrated into society; to teach them how to serve in a local church and to be the lady the Lord wants them to be. The Romanian staff has prayed and believes the time is right. It is time now to build what we call the House of Hope! Please pray as we move forward this year to build or buy a place for these ladies.

#### Property in Brazil

We praise the Lord we were able to secure property in Ribeiro Preto, Brazil last year to build our new office complex. With now over 2000 prisoners studying the Prisoners Bible Institute and 7 missionary families serving in Brazil and recently the new open doors into the public schools: we need this facility. Due to the deteriorating building and the location we are trying to sell our old office building so we can begin building the new facility. PRAY! If the buyer who has made us an offer receives the loan, we will be able to possibly complete the new building without the need of additional funds.

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING TO BUILD-GOLD SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONE**

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford, Vice President  
Rock of Ages Ministries

Post Office Box 2308 · Cleveland, TN · 37320  
(423) 479-3243 · [www.roapm.com](http://www.roapm.com)