



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-March Personal Newsletter 2020

Mat 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Brother Dunsford, have you noticed where most of the cases of the virus are concentrated, do you think this is the judgement of God on the world for so much wickedness?

Brother Ricky, Do you think the Lord is preparing us for the rapture of the Church?

People are dying everywhere this thing is really bad, what will we do if there is no food or medicine?

These are just a few of the questions as a preacher, friend and dad that I am being asked. Probably the most concerning is 'What do you think is going to happen?' I have to admit I have asked myself these same things. Of course, the Holy Spirit reminded me to take no thought for tomorrow and that is when I was convicted on how at times like these we are awoken from our apathy. I surely cannot answer the questions I am asked. Like you I can only pray. I am in no way minimizing what is taking place. Just like many of you, I am following all medical guidelines and government recommendations. I chose the above scripture because I thought when the world is the darkest the light of the gospel shines the brightest. What an opportunity we have to let our good works shine and glorify our heavenly Father. A kind word, a simple email, text or call may be all someone needs. I am more thankful than ever before for the many friends the Lord has given Judy and me over these 32 years as missionaries. Thank you for being so faithful. We will continue to pray for you.

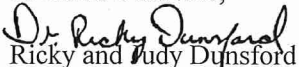
January began with two weeks in Tennessee. The first week was a time we met with field men and ladies for a time of updates, preparations for the year and encouragement. It was a great week and I we see now how vital the meeting was this year. It was then another week meeting with the Executive Staff working on the future plans for the various departments of the ministry. It is truly amazing how we had no idea of the situation we would be soon facing. Much of what we discussed has left us with much to keep us busy while the work in the institutions halted.

February was again our annual Alabama Campaign in Montgomery, AL where the Lord allowed the team of 105 volunteers and missionaries to soul win in several prisons throughout the day. Each evening several services were held with over 2158 in attendance and 209 making professions of faith. Praise the Lord for another great year.

In March we were able to hold a week long Candidate Class and praise the Lord for three new missionary families that were accepted.

With all that is going on most all of our church meetings have been cancelled and I am in full agreement we need to stay home. Judy and I miss so much the fellowship of our friends and are looking forward to when we can get back on the road. Please pray for our needs at this time as we pray for you and your churches.

Thanks to all that sent anniversary cards as Judy and I celebrated our 40th year in March.

In Christ's Service,

Ricky and Judy Dunsford

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

It is hard to believe this May 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's 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 or the Glory of the Lord. Today Dr. Ellis and the missionaries of the Rock of Ages carry on this dream, our work done here must be done so as to be gold, silver and precious stone in his sight. Thanks to all that partner with us through prayer, giving and volunteering 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 been 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 if Rock of Ages could help. 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,

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Vice President

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