



September 2020 Personal Newsletter

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“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” Isa 64:8

Recently, in my devotion time, I was in the book of Isaiah and I begin to think on the above verse, especially where it says we all are the work of thy hand. Just a few months from now, Judy and I will complete 33 years of missionary service. Over the years, we have watched the Lord mold and remold us. I began to think of the many friends he has given us over the years and I began to realize how the Lord has used so many to not only mold us personally but together, He has molded us all. Together we have seen the Lord do a great work around the world and he has taken a little clay from all of us and with his hands molded a great work. Thank you for your faithfulness to pray, for your financial help and for just being an encouragement. If the Lord tarries His coming, we look forward to laboring with you for many more years to come.

Meetings:

Though flights overseas and prisons locked down worldwide have slowed down the one on one work behind bars, I have had the privilege to be in several church meetings in the past few weeks. The joy of preaching a few revival services and seeing God's people beginning to safely meet together again is such a joy. The remainder of the year will be busy on the road with meeting both in church and with Rock of Ages staff. We have been staying busy with new material being printed and working with prison officials in preparation for the re-opening of the institutions to outside guest. PRAY THE LORD CONTINUES TO KEEP US SAFE ON THE ROAD!

Bibles

The 9th edition of the Rock of Ages study Bible is now available. In addition, we are awaiting the arrival of the Rock of Ages Emergency Responder's New Testament.

Annual Alabama Campaign

It is time to prepare again for our annual Alabama Campaign in Wetumpka, AL. I gave a call to the head chaplain of the state of Alabama and he said, “Brother Ricky, the quick answer is if there is a vaccine available and it has been in use for two months, then we can have visitation again in the prisons.” He said there are different groups pulling up flatbed trailers and sound systems and holding services. I believe we can move forward with the meeting. We are making plans to move forward. We may be able to meet one on one with inmates. The institution has Plexiglas and we can meet with men and women. We are working on different chapel services where mask will be required and a limited group allowed. As many of you know, we meet at the Grace Baptist Church each morning for a time of preaching and preparation to head out to the prisons. With a year of lockdown and isolation, I began to pray. What if we had an old-time camp meeting at the church? After lunch we can head out to several institutions and preach through the fence; Then back to church (rather than at the prison) for a time of refreshing. Pray as we begin making preparation.

Hurricane and Earthquakes

The past couple months we have had an earthquake and hurricane in our hometown. Judy and I sustained no damage, just a lot of debris and several days without power. With only a loss of food in the freezer, we do have to thank the Lord for his protection. Please pray for the folks that were affected by the storm.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford
Ricky and Judy Dunsford

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.



Titus September 2020

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

I played an offensive tackle in high school football. At practice, we would wear a harness attached to a large truck tire. The coach would place a mark about 50 yards away and we would press towards that mark. After practice, we would run what was known as wind sprints. The mark was set and we were to run as fast as possible towards the mark. In Philippians the word, "press" implies sprinting towards the mark. The harness and tire were to build up our leg strength while sprints were to build up our lungs. Both had the purpose of building endurance. The goal was to complete the journey. The mark in practice was to prepare us for the prize that awaited us. FB Meyers says of this verse, "Will not the prize ahead be the Lord Jesus himself?"

May of 2021 will mark the 30th year since a team of four made the first trip to Romania. When we returned from the trip, a mark was set to not only reach Romania, but anywhere in the world, there was an incarcerated person. We strapped on the harness and began. As we view all that is taking place in the world, it appears more than ever that we must now sprint towards the mark. Many of you have been with us from the beginning and several have joined along the way. Thanks to your faithfulness through prayer and giving tens of thousands have heard the gospel and been saved. Thousands more have received Bibles and have study the Word of God through the Prisoner's Bible Institute. No doubt, we are in the last leg of the race and the prize awaits us, together let us press towards the prize!

NIGERIAN CONTAINER

Several African countries are beginning to open the prisons again and the opportunity to distribute material could be short lived. In order to get the container there on time we must ship by December 1st. We are still in need of some crayons for the public schools. The coloring books will give a clear presentation of the gospel to both the school kids and many take them home for their parents to see. Thousands of Bibles and New Testament will be used to saturate the prisons. We are about \$6000 away from enough money to ship. In addition, it would be best if some would send funds in for the crayon drive and we can purchase the remaining need prior to shipping.

PBI

With the lockdown of prisons worldwide, the correspondence Bible courses are in big demand. Just the country of Brazil has soared in students just wanting something to do. We are seeing saved men grow in the Lord and lost men realize their need for salvation. The courses are offered at no charge to the inmate. The Titus Partner monthly giving helps to maintain the work. Please keep this need in prayer.

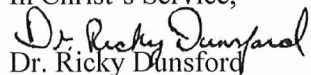
PRESSING ON

Guatemala

Praise the Lord we signed the lease-to-own paperwork for the first section of property in Guatemala. The second contract was signed guarantying the purchase of the remaining property. We have 2 years to raise the funds. We are putting up a large tent for the church to meet while we move forward on the building program. Our long-term goal is to help the church get establish and build on the remaining property an office building for the Rock of Ages.

Thanks again for your faithfulness.

In Christ's Service,


Dr. Ricky Dunsford

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