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January 2021 Personal Newsletter

Ecc 3:11 "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

The year 2020 has ended and we are beginning another new year with many questions, with major challenges for America and an ongoing world pandemic; it is easy to understand why many may be critical that the beginning of this year will be one of hope. As I thought on the above verse, I was reminded that Jesus said in Revelation he is the Alpha and Omega and the beginning and the end. Though we may not understand what all is happening we can for sure know that our Lord makes everything beautiful in his time. I look at the beginning of 2020 and now the end and I must admit, though I long for things to get back to where they were there so many things to be thankful for. Thanks to all our friends for another year of faithful prayers and support. Even through the pandemic, many were reached and many reported giving their lives to the Lord.

December was packed full of travel, we were only home a total of four days. The first two weeks were spent at the home office in Tennessee working with the various staff leaders and making plans for 2021.

We continue to work on the coordination of our annual Alabama Campaign and things are coming together. Please make this meeting a matter of prayer. We have over 80 volunteers already signed up for the meeting and no doubt a few more are planning on coming. We are still not able to enter the prison for one on one soul winning but we are moving forward with the FM transmitters and the through the fence preaching. As I was praying about the direction for this meeting, I believe the Lord would have us hold morning and evening services at the church. Some institutions will allow a few outside the fence in the mornings and some in the evening before dark.

This year after morning services we will be setting up a small canopy in a housing project area that has been known as the Jungle where we have preached each year to a group of street kids. This year we will be holding a three-day revival. After lunch each day, a group will head down to the Jungle and have singing, preaching, and passing out follow up material and New Testaments. In addition, we are supplying all officers and prison staff with a bag of appreciation. The bags will have a Rock of Ages Officers New Testament, various gospel tracts, a small note pad and pen, and a pastry. Praise the Lord the cost of the New Testaments has been met; we are still in need of a few hundred dollars to complete the bags. The dates of the meeting are February 22-25. Pray as volunteers will be traveling in from various states. We are praying it is a time of encouragement and revival and we move forward in 2021.

Updates:

Praise the Lord we have just received the 9th Edition of the Rock of Ages Study Bible and they are ready for distribution.

After a challenging year where the construction of the prayer chapel at the Rock of Ages things are moving forward. The metal has arrived for the roof and the crew is to begin. Help us pray that construction moves forward and we can dedicate the building by summer.

We are moving forward with plans for the annual Rock of Ages Conference in Northfield, MA. We are expecting a great week. Pray for June 21-24 that the Lord will send Holy Ghost revival to our nation.

We are beginning to see a few doors opening up again. Some of our men are getting opportunities to hold services in prisons and some schools. This month one of our chaplains reported 14 saved in his institution while one of the men was able to preach in an alternative school and witness over 20 young people coming to Christ. Praise the Lord! We may be locked down but the Gospel is not locked out!

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.



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

The Apostle uses the Greek word *diōkō* where we get the word press from in the above verse. It is a word that implies persecution and suffering. It is when an athlete or soldier pushes themselves beyond normal physical endurance. The word **toward** is a preposition that describes a forward motion. The apostle Paul no doubt is encouraging the Philippian believers that the journey towards the high calling of God will be one filled with persecution and suffering. He encourages them to set their eyes on the mark or the goal and keep moving forward. Though we cannot compare 2020 to great suffering and persecution, we can surely see the wiles of the devil in the area of discouragement and despair to so many. With apathy and complacency everywhere, we truly need to press on. Thanks to so many of our faithful partners, we are pressing forward in 2021. Thank you again for being so faithful over the past 12 months and we look forward what the Lord has for us in upcoming days.

Pray Without Ceasing

- Although some prisons are opening overseas most are looking at locking down outside visitors for another year. Pray both for missionary families as they long to get back in the institution and pray for the incarcerated men and women that need the gospel.
- Mircea and Ronela Cristian have spent time in the hospital and are still recovering from Covid. Please continue to pray for their recovery and the work in Romania
- Continue praying for the Nigerian Container that is still at the border waiting on clearance due to Covid restrictions.

Pressing Forward

- A container with New Testament and Bibles has arrived in St Lucia and ready for distribution as soon as the prison re-open.
- A skid loaded with Bibles and material are prepared and waiting for shipment to Hungary. Brother Zolts has arrived back in the country and working to get access into the prisons.
- We are preparing a container for the countries of Kenya and Uganda to be shipped in the next few months. The public schools are opened to our workers and they need Bibles and material.
- Presently in Brazil is taking up to 6 months to get building permits. As soon as government offices open up more fully we will move forward with the building of the new office complex. The Prisoner's Bible Institute will soon be over 3000 students and we are in need of the new facility.
- We are moving forward to purchase more land adjacent to our present property in Guatemala. The Lord has already supplied one third of the needed funds. We have until the end of 2021 to purchase the land or it goes back on the market. Pray for the remaining \$50,000 needed.

Praise the Lord

- Last year there were 5157 prisoners' study under the Prisoner's Bible Institute.
- Worldwide there were 1290 saved in the PBI.
- Although limited access in the Philippines, there were still 2724 saved.

In Christ Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford

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Executive Vice President

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