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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER - 2011

Dear Pastors & Prayer Partners,

### Praises of Thanksgiving!

*“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100*

November was truly a blessed month for Brenda & me. We had the privilege of participating in three mission conferences and filling the pulpit on another occasion. We received two verbal commitments for support and are praying that these church's Faith Promise commitments will allow them to partner with us. The highlight of the month was spending Thanksgiving weekend with our family. All three of our children, their spouses, and our 4 grandchildren were here. We were also blessed to have Brenda's parents here from Iowa.

I travelled to Knoxville, TN after Thanksgiving for a meeting with our **M.A.P.** team. It was a very profitable meeting and a blessing to see Bro. Edgar Feghaly, Sam Strickland, and Bill Daab. I was blessed to see an old friend from Iraq – Maher Daoud, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church in Bagdad. Also present was Rick Camperson, Pastor and dear friend from Buford, GA. Brother Camperson will once again be accompanying me to West Africa for our conferences in March & April. We are excited to welcome to our team Brother Mike Ward, who will be overseeing the ministry in Sudan, and Greg Irby, Pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Salem, VA. Brother Irby will be taking care of our **M.A.P.** website and our on-line college courses.

Another highlight for me was picking up 1500 Bibles (*500 complete Bibles & 1000 NT*) to be sent to West Africa in January along with 12 computers. They should be there when we arrive in March. What a blessing to see the printing ministries of the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Crossville, TN and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Oliver Springs, TN. I couldn't help but think of the hundreds of thousands of people who will be lined up in heaven to thank them for providing them with the Word of God.

### **M.A.P. Update** (*Middle East and Africa Partnership*)

**Sudan** - Bro. Feghaly is in Southern Sudan as this letter is being written. He is there to secure property for a new church plant and to take steps toward putting up a radio station where it can reach into Northern Sudan. Bro. Feghaly is planning a trip to Northern Sudan in January.

**Jordan** - Bill Daab and his family will be returning to Jordan in January after a short furlough. He is looking at bringing people over for potential internships for a period of 6 months in Jordan or Lebanon.

**Iraq** - We are praying that we will be able to strengthen the radio signal in Basra, Iraq so that it can reach into Iran. There is great concern among the Iraqi people regarding the withdrawal of our troops. Sam Strickland is considering a trip to Pakistan where they continue to ask him to come to preach & teach the Word of God. This is a great matter of prayer and he needs God's direction on this decision.

**Egypt** – There is serious concern about the new leadership. It appears that the Muslim Brotherhood will be in power and they have publicly stated that Sharia Law will be the law of the land.

*Establishing and Equipping Local Churches through National Pastors*

**West Africa – Praise The Lord!!!** The election in Liberia that has gone through two months of dispute and opposition has finally been declared officially over. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been reelected for a second term. This is great news! This will enable us for at least the next six years to continue planting churches and training national pastors in Liberia. *Thank you for your prayers!* We are excited about our Bible Conferences and Evangelistic Meetings scheduled for March 28 – April 11 in Liberia & Ghana. We will also be discussing the need for a church in one of the villages outside of Kumasi, Ghana.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please remember to pray for the activities listed above. We need your prayers as we continue our deputation ministry. Also, in my last newsletter I asked for sponsors for the pastors' meals during our Africa Conference; we have had one person commit to sponsor a meal at \$75. *(This is to feed 75 pastors)* We still need 3 more sponsors. If you would like to help with my expenses for this trip, that would be appreciated as well. Airfare, visas, land transportation, housing and meals will cost approximately \$2600.

**Finally . . .** Brenda & I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas! May you remember to give thanks for the greatest gift ever given, The Son of God, our Savior from the penalty of sin!

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6

His Servants,

Rick & Brenda Osborn

1 Cor. 15:58