

Dear Supporters,

December 21, 2007

The approach of our third and probably last Christmas as missionaries in Biloxi causes me to reflect on these last couple of years. This has been a blessed experience. There have been many moments of great joy. For example, recently the volunteers gathered outside to leave for their jobs, we all held hands and prayed; what a precious time. Thanksgiving was a special time as we had a full camp of volunteers who worked all day and in the evening we held a worship service thanking our wonderful Lord and Savior. The service took over an hour which allowed everyone time to share something they are grateful for. My contribution to this was to tell how I am thankful to be able to worship each week with new believers who were led to Jesus by the work God is doing through this volunteer effort.

Just as there have been many joyful moments these last two years, there have been times of terrible attacks on this ministry. Even though we know these attacks are inevitable, whenever God's work is going forth, they can still be difficult. My purpose in mentioning this is to give praise for God's faithfulness as He has each time come along side us and brought us through our trials. The passage that comes to mind now is James 1:2. I can't say that I always count my troubles as joy when I go through them, but after they are over, I can see how God has used them for my benefit. Writing these last two paragraphs has caused me to shed some tears as I think about what a wonderful God we serve.

God continues to work on my lack of faith. I was a little discouraged about how few volunteers we had scheduled for next year until on November 29 I received a call from CRWRC which is the relief agency of The Christian Reformed Church. They reserved so many of our beds for their workers starting in January that we only have five weeks left in which we need volunteers before we close. So we expect to have a strong finish to this ministry.

The plight of many people here in this part of Mississippi this Christmas is one of desperation because many have no idea where they will live next year. It is only a matter of time before the local governments order people out of their FEMA trailers. In fact, the city of Gulfport has ordered all trailers out of their city by the end of this year. This order affects over eighteen hundred families currently living in these trailers who have no place to move to. Many of these people are very poor, old and/or disabled and desperately need help. We need your cash donations to buy the building supplies needed to help these people, send your donations to the address listed below and make sure to mark your envelope for Katrina Relief.

The poverty that we encounter as we work out in the communities is unbelievable. In some cases it rivals that of third world countries. Recently one of our teams from Florida was working on a house and became aware of a home across the street which houses a single mom with children, living in conditions which are hard to imagine. Their income is so low that common things such as ironing boards can't be bought so the mom washes their clothes and has to iron them on the floor. Their little radio plays Christian music all

day and the Lord is audibly praised; this can be heard through the broken out windows. Sleeping on the floor in the cold doesn't deter them from being happy or thankful. Since there is little money in the household, the little four foot refrigerator holds what food is available. With your help we and the Florida team are reaching out to help this family.

Today, we have a team of volunteers working on a house of a new believer. We have been involved for many months with this project, the team leader from a church in Florida has taken special interest in this project and spent much time both helping to rebuild the house and sharing scripture with the homeowner. The home owner has recently made a profession of faith. Please pray for someone to disciple this new brother, pray for the rest of his family's salvation, pray that he can get back into his house by Christmas.

Mary Lee and I have been drastically changed by our experience as missionaries here in Biloxi. Our desire is to continue to serve in fulltime ministry as long as we are able to. So we have made preliminary application to a couple of mission agencies to see if they can use a couple of older and somewhat decrepit people such as us. We would appreciate your prayers as we seek the Lord's will. Also if you might know of a place where we might be able to serve, we would love to hear from you.

We want to wish you, your families, your churches, and all our many supporters a blessed Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your support of us and this work. Our efforts here would have been useless were it not for all of you who have joined God's team here in Biloxi. Some of you have been able to come here to help in the work, some of you have made financial contributions, and others have prayed for this work. All of you share in the great work God has done here in Mississippi.

To God be the glory!

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