

RESTORATION Ministries



May 2019

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

The spring planting season has arrived. Farmers are planting crops, and gardeners sowing seeds with the hope of reaping a harvest later this year. The preparation of the soil, fertilizing, planting, watering, controlling weeds and pests serve the purpose of bringing in a bountiful harvest.

In Luke 8:4-15, Jesus told a parable about a sower who sows the seed of God's Word, and a variety of responses by those who hear God's Word. Many people hear God's Word and the devil comes and takes the Word out of their hearts so they can't believe on Christ and be saved (Lk. 8:5,12). Others hear God's Word and are excited about what they hear, but have no depth and when life gets hard, they give up and "fall away" (Lk. 8:6,13). Others hear God's Word and really begin to grow, but eventually are choked out by worries, the pursuit of riches, and the pleasures of life "and bring no fruit to maturity (to be harvested)" (Luke 8:7,14). Others hear the Word and obey it "with a noble and good heart, ... retain it and by persevering produce a crop" (Lk. 8:6,15).

We must ask ourselves several questions from this parable.

1. **What kind of a listener (soil) are we?** Is our response to God's Word producing a bountiful harvest in and through our life that glorifies God?
2. **What kind of a sower are we?** Are we faithfully planting God's Word regardless of the response of the hearers? God's Word has power to grow and produce a great harvest, but it must be shared.

In Luke 10:1 Jesus appointed 70 other disciples to go sow God's Word in the places where He was about to go. There would be a variety of responses to their message. However, Jesus said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Then He told them to "go". (Lk. 10:2-3a)

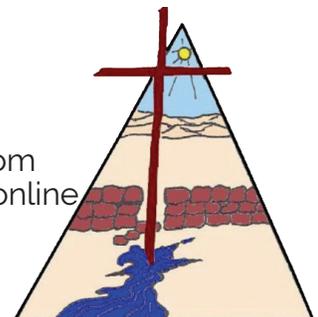
We continue to faithfully sow the seed of God's Word and share the power of Christ to transform lives, marriages, and relationships. In this update we are sharing about our upcoming trip to a SE Asian country to further equip God's workers to effectively share God's truth concerning Christ honoring marriage and family relationships with many others. Would you partner with us through prayer or giving?

In Christ and For His Kingdom Purposes,

Roger and Brenda Daum

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Praise or Prayer Items

1. Brenda will have **cataract surgery** on both eyes in June.
2. The **business owners workshop** in January was an encouragement to those who attended.
3. For **2 husbands** who trusted Jesus as Savior in counseling.
4. The Lord Jesus is bringing emotional healing & spiritual transformation to individuals & couples. Pray they continue to grow in Christ & walk in freedom. Roger has or is working with **28 households** so far in 2019.
5. For God's **faithful provision & those who partner with us** in prayer & giving to make this ministry possible. 22% of what is needed to cover expenses has come in through gifts of those coming for counseling. This is down from last year. Pray God raises up **additional supporters** for Restoration Ministries so we can continue to do what God has called us to do.
6. For our **training trip to SE Asia** in November. For God's provision to cover expenses & the preparation of new materials on relationships..

God has opened a **unique opportunity** for us to travel to a South Eastern Asian country this fall to teach and equip Christian leaders and married couples important relational truths to help believers resolve emotional and spiritual issues that adversely affect them, their marriages, families, and local churches.

In 2008 we went to the Philippines with Dr. Chuck Lynch (Living Foundation Ministries) to train and equip believers as lay counselors and people helpers. We worked with Ed and Norma Gaston, who are gifted and strategically placed by God to have a great impact upon Christian and governmental leaders in the Philippines and other parts of Asia. They were also taking training at a seminary in the Philippines to get counseling degrees. Restoration Ministries board decided we should partner with them. In 2015, we brought them for training in our office. We sent them home with materials Roger has developed to help them train pastoral counselors, and do marriage and family conferences. They also have a weekly radio broadcast throughout the Philippines on Christian radio. They have translated our materials to use in their training conferences.



They also travel to 3 other Asian countries to train pastors, Christian leaders, and hold marriage/parenting conferences. They have asked us not to disclose the names of these countries to help protect nationals who are being trained and sent into remote regions where they face persecution. **Their first group of graduates will graduate this November.** They asked us to come and do 2 weeks of training with these graduates and a marriage conference for couples. They plan to invite many who have attended past marriage conferences.

Christians and churches in that country have a distorted view of marriage and the roles of the husband and wife. Wives are often devalued and treated as family slaves. Christian husbands and even pastors have been taught to abuse their wives and beat them into submission. This has resulted in a very high level of depression and even suicide among Christian wives whose husbands have not been taught how to love and value them. This teaches children a wrong view of marriage and continues to adversely affect families and churches. The Gastons train Christian leaders, pastors, and couples what God's Word teaches on these important matters.



We need to raise \$7,500 to cover our travel, lodging, and other expenses. We are setting up a scholarship fund to help couples in this poor country with travel, food, and lodging so they can attend our marriage conference. Many of them will travel 2 or 3 days to attend. As they apply God's Word in their marriage it has an impact on other marriages. We are asking God to provide an additional \$4,000 to make it possible for 40 more couples to attend. **Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us** in this opportunity to train and equip believers to demonstrate the love of Christ through their marriages, and pastoral counseling? Designate gifts for "travel" or for "scholarships".



Most of all, we need your **prayers for these graduates and their spouses** in a land of great spiritual darkness where there are very few Christians. **Pray the Lord Jesus will use us to equip and train them** to live out the love of Christ in their families and impact their culture for Christ.