

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.
~ Author Unknown

February 2007

Dear Friend,

It's snowing! Well, actually, it snowed earlier and has now changed over to freezing rain. That makes today a perfect day to catch up on some overdue tasks – like this newsletter, which should have gone out in January.



I have a good excuse for not getting our newsletter out on time. Penny and I moved to a new house in Garner. Our time at the missionary residence has come to an end and we had to move into a rental house.

The good news is we are much closer to our church, First Baptist Garner. The bad news is we are in a MUCH smaller house! So, we have been selling and throwing out our extra stuff to make room to breathe! It's been task to say the least.

Our new home address is 114 Woodland Rd., Garner, NC 27529. All mail for the ministry will continue to PO Box 2151, Garner, NC 27529.

Time for a New Focus

In October of last year, I had the privilege of attending the Innovative Evangelism Conference in Portland, Oregon sponsored by Luis Palau. It was a wonderful – much needed - time of fellowship and refreshing and God spoke to me in a very real and challenging way.

As I was flying into Portland, I remember the feeling of weariness and unease that came over me. It was kind of like being called to the principal's office when you were in school and not knowing why. I knew that God wanted to speak to me there, but I did not know about what.

Upon arrival, I was swept up in the busy schedule of the conference and barely had time to think, much less be alone with God. One of my mentors, Bob Boyd, asked me to help lead part of his assigned mentoring group – which I considered to be an undeserved honor.

It was a great experience for me being able to counsel other believers who were either just going into evangelism, or praying about the possibility. But it added to my busyness.

On the last day of the conference, we began our final plenary with Dr. Palau leading. I remembered feeling disappointment because I had not heard the clear word from God that I was expecting. However, during the message God impressed upon me the thing I needed to hear.

I needed to stop being a revivalist and start being an evangelist.

You are probably wondering what that means. It has to do with focus.

So many times, people who go into the field of vocational evangelism are forced to diversify their ministry in order to receive enough love offerings to survive. We become the

proverbial “jack of all trades and master of none.” Consequently, we tend to have a very limited impact for God’s Kingdom.

I confess that I am guilty of trying to do too many things.

The one thing that I am convinced of more than ever is this: **God has called me to be an evangelist.** My calling is not to entertain the saints, but to evangelize the lost. That calling is summed up in our new mission statement: Our mission is to introduce people to Jesus Christ and equip his followers to do the same.

Therefore, with God’s help, I must do everything possible to make that calling happen.

Time for a New Game Plan

In the short term it means that Penny and I must spend some focused time building new partnerships to support the work. Over the past year, a number of our partners have stopped sending their pledges for various reasons. This means that our level of support has dropped so significantly, that it threatens our ability to maintain this ministry.

This shift in focus means that we are going to have to turn down some evangelism opportunities in order to maintain our focus on the ministry of partnership development. I have to confess to you that I don’t like turning down evangelism opportunities. I would much rather preach the gospel. But as my friend and mentor Dr. Bob Boyd frequently tells me, I must have a long term focus. Taking time to build a strong financial support base now will free us for more evangelism later.

There are a few small engagements already on our calendar that we have to fulfill because of our previous commitment. But other opportunities will have to be postponed until we get better established with our ministry support. We want to get back to evangelism as quickly as possible, so we need your prayers for this process.

In the long term, we will be making some other changes to strengthen our ministry. We ask you to pray that God will guide us in those changes. One need we have that has been on my heart for some time is for someone to do the work of ministry coordination. This Ministry Coordinator will be responsible for preparing for our Festivals and international crusades as well as local church outreaches.

Thanks for reading our prayer letters and praying for us. I pray that you will have a prosperous and Christ-centered New Year.

Under His Wing,



Darrel Davis

P.S. – I’m so glad you are praying for us! Please don’t stop...we need you on our team.