



Casa da Esperança

Winter 2008

God first

In talking to friends in various parts of the world, the Lord seems to be teaching something internationally right now. Placing God first. In our prayer life, placing Him first. In our marriages, placing him first. In our checkbooks...

I recently listened to a sermon by a man named Robert Morris. It was called the Principle of First. It spoke, among other things, about financial responsibility to the Lord. This sermon really spoke to my heart and I encourage you to listen to it. Just click on the link that follows this story and it will direct you to the New Life Church website. Scroll down and click to download the sermon.

We give the Lord our first "whatever". Whether it is our first born lamb as in the old testament or the first of our paycheck. A good example of this is when God told the Israelites that all of the gold and silver of Jericho was the Lord's. The principle here was that Jericho was the first city the Israelites conquered. God didn't say "conquer the first 5 cities and then give me the gold and silver from one of them". He wanted the first.

The same can be said for our checkbooks. God wants the first of "His" money. We shouldn't be paying all our bills and then sending to Him what is left over, if there is any. There is no faith in that at all. He wants the show of faith first and then once God has "redeemed" our income, He will provide for us.

We have recently become acutely aware of this principle in our personal lives and both Fabi and I felt led by the Holy Spirit to encourage you all in the same area of your lives. We have become, at least to our ears, a broken record. We are always having to ask for funding. Now, we know this is a part of our job. We run this daycare through donations. But it has seemed like more work than it should be recently.

We believe that the Lord is really starting to purify and cleanse the church. Actually, He has been doing it for quite a while, but the fire seems to be growing in intensity. Many of you may know that the hotter the fire you use to purify gold, the purer the gold will be in the end. We want to be as pure as we can. We also want you to be as pure as you can be.

One of our responsibilities as missionaries is an accountabil-

ity with God in the area of the monies we receive. If God were to ever ask us, "Do you personally know of any donors to the House of Hope who are not tithing to me first?" Honestly, we could answer "no, we know of no one." But that begs the question: "Are there any of our supporters who only tithe to us and not to their local church?" Or, "Are there any people who just don't tithe because they don't see it as something that they can afford?" (I am not talking of those who have no local church at the moment but desire to tithe a ministry until they can settle on a church.)

This may be a concept that you may not understand, but we do not want to be operating on money that has not been given to the right person! Imagine running a business and someone gives money to help with operating expenses; but it's not theirs! Are we stealing if we take it knowing it belonged to someone else? In our eyes it is. I know some of you may disagree with that premise. That's OK.



As I said earlier, we know of no one who is giving to us that is neglecting to give to God what is His. But if you are, we ask you this favor. Please pray and ask God if He has anything to say about the way you tithe. I am also aware of donors who split their 10 percent tithe among several ministries. We would ask again that you have the Lord's permission to do that. (The concept of splitting a tithe between ministries seems to be fairly common and to be totally honest, I have never put much thought into it. We just hope you have prayed over that decision.)

No one understands our needs better than God and tithing was meant to be a blessing to US, God's children! You show faith to the Lord and He will provide for your needs, and ours. We feel that when our donors and the church as a whole have come to place God first in everything, including their finances, the HoH will be taken care of beyond its wildest dreams. So yes, you just actually read a newsletter from a missionary in the field asking you to not send them money until you have checked with God. Please consider God first, then us.

Here is the link to that sermon I mentioned.

<http://www.newlifecyclechurch.org/displaypodcast.jsp?id=6>

patrick and rachel



In the movie Dumb and Dumber, one of the great classics of our time, Lloyd and Harry finally arrive in Aspen after what seems like an eternity on the road. The first words out of Lloyd's mouth were "We're there!" Well, Patrick and Rachel... You're here. Finally!

They arrived on January 18th after months of visa uncertainty and seeking the Lord. Their original plan was to arrive in October but because of Brazilian red tape and other "clerical vacations", their arrival was delayed until the new year.

Over the last month, Fabi and I have been trying to get them acclimated and grounded in their new home for the next 3 years. They have already found an apartment and just officially moved into it on the 12th of February! Their next few steps will involve language training, finding a car, and just adjusting to the new culture.

Right now, everything is still so new to them but I am sure that in the coming weeks and months, the reality of being here will hit them and they would appreciate hearing from those of you who know and love them.

maxwell

Many of you may recall the story I did in November on Maxwell's father. He was beaten very badly after a hard day's drinking and was in the hospital. What we initially thought was a fatal wound to the head, became a prognosis of possible paralysis. Then, before we knew it, Max's father was at home. He is not paralyzed, nor is he in danger of dying. PTL!!!

I say praise the Lord because Max needs his father. It doesn't matter how much of a schmuck he was before this event. What matters now is that he has been given a new lease on his life and we all now have the opportunity to lift him up in regular, concerted prayer. He has a chance that not a lot of young people here have. A chance to redeem his previous life and actions.

Max is one of four children and his mother and father are only 21 years old. They recently moved into a small efficiency apartment in December. While Max's dad was in the hospital, his pregnant wife and three children were forced to live in a cardboard box next to the trash dump. When we discovered this, we decided to move them to an apartment here in the favella.

It is not much. A single bedroom with a living room and a community shower for the other efficiencies surrounding them, but it is better than the alternative.

The HoH is paying for the apartment until the father's new job starts in March.

Please, please pray that the father would stay away from alcohol and trouble in general. That he would meet Jesus in a powerful way and that Max, one day, would be able to look up to his dad and say, "I am so proud of my daddy. Thank you Jesus for keeping him alive."



Maxwell and his family.

here we go...

February 6th was the first day for the children at the HoH this year. Normally, we would open on the first but Carnival was the first week of February so everything got delayed a week.

Officially, we have 93 children. There are over 250 children on the waiting list and another 90 children on the waiting list for the before/after school programs! There are mothers who have been on the waiting list for over two years!

One of the things that we have always wanted to do but were never able to do was to build a daycare that could accommodate ALL the children that need it. Well, we have begun to pray and seek the Lord towards that end. We have even gone so far as to have plans drawn up so we can visualize specifically what it is we would need.

One hold up to this part of the HoH vision was the property was never ours. But that all changed last year through a donation from some gentlemen in Europe and some other places and now we have the freedom to begin planning for the future.

Please join with us as we pray about this next huge step. We aren't sure when this step would be taken. We just feel a sense from the Lord that we need to be prayerful about it and that He may be speaking about it soon. Full speed ahead.

what's going on now?

- Coordination of a small business enterprise using producing groups in the favella. A group from Holland is lending seed support to produce crafts and other items that would then be sold to a buyer in Europe. They would be shipped and then distributed and sold in Holland and Germany and other places. This project is designed to increase income not only for the HoH organization but also for the members of the favella who participate. Please pray for the Lord's grace in this as we are all learning as we go!!
- The English and computer classes are still ongoing. Rachel has actually taken over some of the English classes as they are itching to get involved in any way they can. Please pray that the classes have an impact that the students will be able to see.
- We are having some behavioral problems with some of our staff. Please pray for us to have wisdom with them as some of the problems we have been encountering have been quite time consuming to try to resolve. There just seems to be a real sense of rebellion amongst some of the staff, so please keep us and them lifted up.
- We are in the process of evaluating the hiring of another person to come along side of us to do a lot of the things Fabi and I are doing. We already have someone in mind. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, at the pace Fabi and I are going, we will never get anything done on the orphanage. There needs to be some separation from HoH things for us to be able to concentrate on that more. Second, this person is already trained in areas such as fundraising and project writing and is a business man and self-starter. He would be required to raise his own salary.

prayer requests!

- Monthly Supporters - We need people who are willing to support the HoH with money that we can use at our discretion. There have been several months recently where we have not been able to pay bills or staff salaries on time due to a lack of funds. **Please** pray about supporting the House of Hope, even with a one time gift.
- It is becoming apparent that the HoH needs a car. Picking up donations and running errands for the HoH has become almost a full time job and John and Fabi are running their own car into the ground to accomplish these

tasks. Please pray for this with us as we look for ways to provide for the HoH in a better way.

- Please pray for our upcoming micro business enterprise that we are starting up here in the favella. Pray that it would not only succeed but that it would restore a certain amount of dignity to the families here.
- Pray for Patrick and Rachel as they adapt and try to work their way into society and the favella. This will be a long, arduous process but the Lord is with them and they are looking forward to it.
- The children's health. As always, it's an adventure!

how to sponsor children

The easiest way to sponsor a child is through our contact at St. Luke's Church. Her name is Marcia Winters. We are in the process of reorganizing everything and everyone who has been involved.

A child can be sponsored for 40 dollars a month. The money will be used for a host of different things including food, uniforms or medical needs for the children. If you are interested in being involved with this project, please contact Marcia at ronwinters@roadrunner.com. This project has been responsible over the years for a large portion of our operating costs with regards to the children.

If your desire is to help the HoH but not any child in particular, please see the section immediately below this one for directions on how to donate to us monthly or even just a one time deal.

You may also contact John or Fabiana at their email address at johnandfabi@gmail.com or by phone. See below.

How to Help the House of Hope:

Financially, you can make a check out to St. Luke's Church and in the memo line write House of Hope. St. Luke's address is 565 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Akron Ohio, 44333-2457.

Our contacts at St. Luke's church are Ron and Marcia Winters at ronwinters@roadrunner.com. Write to them about sponsoring a child.

Or you can write to John and Fabiana Schmidt at johnandfabi@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!!!!

Phone: 011-55-81-3469-4202 or

Our new local number! 1(234) 542-6769