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Dear Ministry Friends,

February / March 2024

*"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."* – **Jeremiah 29:13**

The theme for our home church this year is: **"Draw Nearer to God."** Notice this is not a passive vision statement. It does not say *"draw near,"* but *"draw nearer"* to God. Jeremiah says we are to seek, find, search, and to do so **with all our heart**. My desire and prayer this new year is that I will draw nearer to God in my life and ministry.

### **A BRIEF LOOK BACK - 2023**

- ✳ We started the year with the Annual Conference of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of Pastors meeting in our new building at Faith Baptist Church in Thinker Village. There was a record attendance of over 800 in attendance.
- ✳ We developed the expansion of our Bible Institute by having two locations and providing the equipment to take the classes by video into two distant village churches. God provided the necessary funds and guidance.
- ✳ Brenda's Children's Ministry continues to advance through the training of church leaders.
  - Ruth Ben has become her right arm and has begun to take the leadership role in training and organizing workshops.
  - Together they organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Children's Retreat. There were over 200 young people in attendance.
- ✳ We had the great blessing of taking our daughter, Beth, to Liberia with us to see our ministry and meet the wonderful people God is allowing us to minister to and with.
- ✳ Our college student and assistant Pastor at FBC, Ayres Voyee, began Bible Studies in the village of Saclapea. The number of those attending began to grow and desired to have a church. Through much prayer and God's provisions, we purchased 3 acres of land.
- ✳ We ended the year by providing several bags of rice to the members of FBC. Their gratitude was overwhelming!

### **LOOKING AHEAD - 2024**

- ✳ Children's Ministry: Plans are being made for several training workshops and 2<sup>nd</sup> Children's Retreat. We will be providing several Abeka Bible Lessons for the Sunday School classes. *(Any financial assistance would be great!)*
- ✳ B.I.B.L.E. – Baptist Institute of Bible Learning and Education
  - We continue to purchase equipment to expand the teaching into other villages by video.
  - We are also doing a Livestream class this semester while I am in the States. With so many variables: *current, internet, projector, computer, and zoom*, we Praise God it is working. *(so far!)*
  - Missionary partner Ben Reimer is now doing our notebook printing to help us cut down printing costs.
  - Our former student, Pastor James Quanor is teaching a class this semester. *(What a blessing to see this fruit!)*
  - Missionary Tony Ledbetter, missionary to the Haitians, will be traveling with me to Liberia in March to teach.
- ✳ We are waiting to receive the deed for the property in Saclapea. We are planning a service on the property in March with the Bible Study group. It will be a wonderful time to encourage them and plan for a church building.
- ✳ We are looking into starting a Christian School with sister Ruth Ben who is qualified and burdened for the children of Liberia. We must reach these children before they are taken in by the Muslim education system. We have an opportunity to lease a building. The education system is absolutely terrible in Liberia. We don't want to just teach them, but teach them from a Biblical foundation. *Please pray with us and about helping support this endeavor.*

❖ **PLEASE SEE PAGE 2**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- For continued health and wisdom as we “*draw nearer*” to God.
- Wisdom and direction as we expand our outreach ministries.
- The establishment of the new church plant in Saclapea and reaching that community for Christ.
- It is not fun asking for financial assistance . . . *but it is necessary for the ministry.*
  - ⇒ Assistance in the purchase of Abeka Sunday School materials. (*each lesson about \$26.*)
  - ⇒ Assistance in the purchase of equipment for video expansion. (*computers, projectors, screens*)
  - ⇒ Assistance in the building of a church in Saclapea.
  - ⇒ Assistance in starting the Christians school and getting teaching materials.

### **❖ Very important Prayer Request:**

Brenda’s dad has been declining in health for some time now. He is presently on oxygen and barely able to use his walker. Brenda and her 3 siblings have been sharing the responsibility of caring for her mom and dad for the past 2 years. Her dad is 93 and her mother is 91. Because of his present decline, Brenda and I will be going to Iowa next week to be with them.

Her mother is also dealing with dementia, which makes things even more difficult.

Pray for Brenda and her siblings – comfort, wisdom in decision making, and the ability to communicate with their parents the necessary care they need. *Thank you so much for this!*



**Children’s Retreat**



Rice  
distribution at  
Faith Baptist  
Church in  
Thinker  
Village.



Her smile says it  
all! What a joy  
to be used of  
God to share the  
love of Jesus and  
our love for the  
Liberian people!

*Brenda and I want to thank those who blessed  
us with Christmas gifts! So appreciated!*

God’s best to you this new year. May you *draw  
nearer* to Him and enjoy the blessings that  
come with walking in His Will.

Your missionaries to Liberia,

Rick & Brenda Osborn

***Establishing and Equipping Local Churches through National Pastors***