



Newsletter

King David, known as "a man after God's own heart," declared in Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." It is so easy to allow fear and the need for the "ideal circumstances" to keep us from taking bold steps to expand our ministry. This year we have increasingly sought to step out in faith and trust God. As we have done so, we have tasted more and more of his goodness. During this process we have keenly felt your prayers and thank you again for standing with us in our work.



God's Recent Goodness

By God's grace, our June writing projects went exceptionally well. Celestia was able to finish the Fairy Tale for prostituted girls and Kayla, our wonderful daughter-in-law is working with Celestia to complete most of the art for the book! Celestia has titled this book *The Lost Princess*. She wrote with incredible passion and efficiency, using a "fairy tale" genre (think C. S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* and George McDonald) to guide the girls in story fashion through the experience of abuse, exploitation, and healing in Christ. It incorporates Scripture and biblical themes in a low key "below the radar" manner which should work even with girls who have experienced much religious abuse and are unable to accept Scripture or biblical themes given in a direct (obvious) manner. Celestia has given *The Lost Princess* to several abuse survivors, care givers, and a small group of prostituted girls. The feedback so far has been terrific, and has led to several specific edits that will best meet the needs of the girls. We firmly believe that God's hand is uniquely on this resource and are excited to see it available

this coming year for Street Light and many other ministries.

In June we also finished the final chapter of our intimacy book (*Forever and Always*) and send it to our publishing editor. Steve also finished writing a 25 page essay entitled "Calling the Evangelical Church to Truth: Domestic Violence and the Gospel." It will be a chapter in a forthcoming book on domestic violence for pastors and other Christian leaders. We have also worked with Kristi Ickes to complete the final edits of *Mending the Soul Student Edition* for the churches and sent this to the publisher. This is essentially a combination of the *Mending the Soul* book and *Workbook* uniquely tailored for adolescents. It is a *much* needed healing resource for wounded adolescents. We are very thankful God allowed us to finish this project and that one of the largest evangelical publishers (Zondervan/Youth Specialties) agreed to publish it.

Finally, I (Steve) received word that the ASU abortion presentation I gave in March of 2010, "Abortion, the Marginalized, and the Vulnerable: A Social Justice Perspective for Re-

ducing Abortion" has been accepted for publication in *Cultural Encounters*, an evangelical, peer reviewed journal with a strong social justice emphasis. One of the ASU professors who organized the abortion conference so appreciated it that she is including it in a published anthology of articles for university students. I am delighted that God is allowing this work to reach a wider audience, and pray that God will use it to show to many non-evangelicals his heart of redemptive love.

Finally, many of you were praying for the Bethany Bible Church "Free to Laugh" fund raiser in May. They ran into a few logistical snags but are finally able to mail us a check later this week for our portion of the proceeds of this fundraiser—over \$16,000! This is so timely, as I stepped out by faith and took a "reduced pay" leave of absence from Phoenix Seminary this spring to be able to write the child prostitution material. Most of our initial funds for this work have been used up, but God always knows what we need and when we need it. What a beautiful divine answer to prayer!

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Abby Update



The Kivulu Home – boys and staff June, 2010

Many of you faithfully pray for our daughter and her work with the street kids of Kampala, Uganda. We want to thank you for your prayers and support of her. We thought it might be helpful to give a small update on her work there. As of this summer she has moved into the Kivulu Home with the 16 boys that live there. Abby believes she is there to be their mom until they launch into the adult lives and ministries that God has called them to. She loves it there so very much and is filled with joy at the “miracles” she gets to see on a “daily basis.” She has a loving staff of 16 Christian leaders (Ugandan and American) and they enjoy a depth of intimacy in their work together. She also continues to direct the Drop-In Center where the boys from the local slums can come to be fed, both spiritually and physically, and be given a safe place to sleep and grow. She now has some professional counselors who work with the boys on a one-on-one basis, which has been a great blessing.



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Update from Congo!

We wanted to share a letter we just received from one of the Christian leaders who has attended the last three annual MTS trainings we lead in the Congo. Jean-Pasteur Katavo and his wife Daphrose are denominational leaders (Conservative Baptist) in Goma. After our first training in 2007, Daphrose opened the first counseling center to be built in the center of one of the largest High Schools in Goma. The name of that first center was Gratia Counseling Center. She began to use the MTS healing model with the students in that school. God blessed this work and she and her team were able to counsel over 600 students in their first year of operation; many of these students were saved as a result of the compassionate, Christ-like care they received there.



Gratia Counseling Center

Katave and Daphrose have sent us an update that just blew our minds! We wanted you to be able to read of the expansion of the ministry of healing that has flowed out of just one couple trained in the Congo through MTS:

“Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your training. The vision is advancing. After setting up Gratia Counseling Center in March 2008, and a second one at Majengo Institute in Goma last year, now we look forward to inaugurating three more Counseling Centers in Butembo: two in high schools and the other in a church setting. So, during this summer vacation in August, we will conduct a specialized training in Butembo. And when you come back next year you will further the formation started. Let us pray for

4 more centers to be established in Beni (2) and in Bukavu (2), 90 km on the other side of Kivu Lake. Preparations are on the way.”



Daphrose and family

Now that is Gospel expansion! We thought you would be encouraged by the multiplication of your support of us in the lives of these amazing, humble, gifted and faithful leaders of the Congo! We DO believe that healing is the greatest evangelistic tool of the 21st century!!! We have all kinds of opened doors!!!

Specific July Prayer Requests

Pray with us that God would:

- Give wisdom, empowerment, and efficiency as we work on *A Community Based Guide for Care Givers of Sexually Exploited Girls: Our Lost Princesses*. This will be the guide book to direct Christian staff and volunteers who work with prostituted/trafficked girls in the US and globally. It will correlate with the prostituted girls' curriculum Celestia wrote last month (*The Lost Princess*) and will give a fuller understanding of the social science research, biblical theology, and practical ministry ideas for care givers.
- Guide and bless my (Steve's) upcoming 3 week trip to Kampala Uganda, Nairobi Kenya, and Kigali, Rwanda, August 1-19. I plan to meet Abby in Kampala, spend a few days in her ministry, and then travel with her to Kenya and Rwanda to visit ministries which work with street children and prostituted young women. We've had a hard time setting up specific meetings so particularly pray that God will direct us to the right people and ministries we can learn from and who we might be able to encourage and help. Some of the areas we will be going into in Kenya are incredibly violent and dangerous, so pray also that God will protect us as we move into Satan's turf. Abby and I are not afraid of going into dangerous places (she lives year round in one) or of getting sick, but God has given us both full schedules with much important work (I begin teaching a few days after I return from Africa) so Satan would love to hinder our long term work by allowing us to be injured or become sick. Pray with us that any of Satan's malevolent plans against us would be thwarted.
- Guide the Mending the Soul board and advisors as we are in the process of making significant ministry changes to narrow and focus our work so that Celestia and I would be more freed up to provide strategic written resources on abuse and healing and for Mending the Soul to be more focused to provide strategic trainings for the body of Christ. This will require much wisdom as well as major new financial provision. We are stepping out trusting God, so please pray with us for this to happen in the coming months.
- Protect, provide key contacts, and give ministry effectiveness to Brittany and her film making team as they travel globally to make a film on international sex trafficking. Closely related, please pray for God to give us wisdom in being able to assist the leaders they met with in Mexico City who are desperate for solid training on sex trafficking and Christ centered healing.
- Encourage, heal, and give supernatural wisdom to Dr. Christine Stephenson's doctors. Christine served faithfully for over two years as the MTS board chair and has been a critical part of our Congo ministry team for the past 3 years. She has been recently diagnosed with a serious brain aneurysm and has experienced some severe, seemingly unrelated physical problems including facial and throat nerve pain, left tongue paralysis and pain resulting in speech and swallowing problems, and systemic auto immune responses. Doctors are stymied to know the cause of these serious problems. Pray that God will not only heal her body, but will use these trials to continue to build her faith and give her powerful experiences of the redeeming love of God.
- Give Abby and her team safety, wisdom, renewal, and spiritual intimacy. God continues to provide for their needs financially through those that support directly and those that support through the sale of the beaded jewelry that the boys make. Currently, half of Abby's budget is provided for through the bead sales! We have individuals and vendors across the US who sell the jewelry for her. Thank you for your faithful support!!!

Your fellow servants to the oppressed and marginalized,



"O God, let me make a difference for You that is utterly disproportionate to who I am."

~ David Brainerd, 18th century missionary to the Native Americans



For resources and information on our ministry go to:
www.globalhoperesources.org

To be part of our financial support team, contact us at:
tracy@ps.edu.

You can also make donations to our account with our missions agency:

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