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GOD *is still* **CALLING**

s God still calling people in 2016? At FEA Ministries we firmly believe that God is indeed still calling. In fact, He has a role for every one of



His children to fulfill. For some this means following His leading into a specific ministry. For others it is supporting those who are in "full-time ministry" and obeying God's command for all Christians to share the gospel with the unsaved. No matter where you find yourself in relation to God's call, we challenge you to keep your heart open to His guidance in your life.

In this issue we share stories of men and women who have answered God's call. It has not always been easy, but God has faithfully led them each step of the way. As we start down the winding path of a new year, will you make it your

goal to say yes to God no matter what He asks of you? It will be the best decision you make! 3

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL Managing Editor

We would love to hear your thoughts on the *World Update*. Please send your comments or questions to pr@feaministries.org.

Meet Louie the Monkey!

Hi, there. I'm Louie the monkey, and I live with Alex and Emma in the United States. I am so excited to be part of HIM's brand new *Engage Kids* program. In addition to appearing in the monthly kids' activity booklets, I am going to start hiding somewhere in each edition of this big *World Update*. I want kids to have fun looking at all the pictures as they try to find me. You can help by making sure they have a chance to search for me and then helping them



email joanastratton@feaministries.org as soon as they discover my hiding spot. The first five names that come in will be published in the next issue of the *World Update*. Please make sure to include the page number and location when you email. And remember—I'm very sneaky and quite fast, so keep your eyes open for me. Happy hunting! **S**

THE SECRET TO NO ONE IS FULFILLING YOUR CALL OFF THE HOOK



SHORT-TERM MISSIONS: THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING





world|update

Editor-in-Chief Sidney Grant Managing Editor Benjamin McDowell Staff Writers Faye Parsons, Christina Black Layout and Design Jon Plank, Media Spring

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11305 SE Gomez Ave Hobe Sound, Florida, 33455 Phone 772-546-1113 Email info@feaministries.org

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About FEA Ministries, Inc.

FEA Ministries is a nonprofit organization that exists to Serve the Church and Reach the World. We fulfill the Commission of Christ by producing disciple makers around the world through diverse Christian ministries. The three main branches of FEA Ministries are Hope International Missions, Sea Breeze Community and Sea Breeze Camp Meeting. Our ministry is about making sure people everywhere are ready to spend eternity with God.

You can also read this issue of the *World Update* online at www.feaministries.org/worldupdate



from the **PRESIDENT**

SIDNEY GRANT



God Is Still Calling

Any young men and women from Latin America leave their homes and countries for the United States to seek a better life. They flood the frontiers of this great country seeking freedom and financial possibilities. As a former pastor to the Hispanic community in the United States, I have had the privilege of seeing many of the migrating multitudes find Jesus as the real solution to their search for a better life.

One young man in the mid-nineties attended a watch night service and responded to his need for salvation. Eventually, he answered the call to prepare for pastoral work. However, the real test to his calling was at a youth retreat when God asked him to give up his dream of purchasing some sewing machines to start a business in his country. After long and agonizing prayer, Abel yielded to the call of God. He graduated from his course of studies and returned to his country along with his fiancée. He eventually opened a church planting ministry, discipleship program, and a Bible institute in Southwestern Guatemala. The work is flourishing under the leadership of the men he groomed and trained. Several years later Abel was called to the country of Mexico where he is successfully developing similar ministries. Little did he know that giving up the sewing business would lead him into a ministry of sowing seeds of righteousness and mending broken lives for Jesus.

God is still calling in 2016. He is calling our generation to actively build communities of disciple makers who live consistent, godly lives. How do we go about this calling? We must first understand that our lives should be lived within the biblical framework of the Great Commission. No matter our specific role in life, all of us are responsible to win people to Christ. We must then recognize that He calls us to radical conformity to Christlikeness. Being with Christ and becoming like Him are the essence of our calling. It is only when we take the time to cultivate the character and commitment of Christ in our lives that we will be able to effectively live like Christ on a daily basis. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, our spiritual walk will increasingly be characterized with a moment-bymoment following of the Holy Spirit's leadership.

Ultimately, this overarching call to be like Christ will be the primary catalyst that propels us to win people to Him. The closer we draw to the heart of Christ, the more we will be saturated with His overwhelming love for lost humanity. We cannot spend much time in His presence before we will find ourselves compelled to go reach the world with His love. And like Abel has discovered, as we fully yield ourselves to God and walk close to Him, He will use us in ways we could not have possibly envisioned! Praise God for still calling! Ultimately, this overarching call to be like Christ will be the primary catalyst that propels us to win people to Him.



The Secret to Fulfilling Your Call

ERIC KUHNS Tegucigalpa, Honduras



There are all the career missionaries? Is God no longer calling workers to the harvest fields? These are some of the questions that have haunted me for the last five or so years. As I look across our movement, it seems that our missionary force is dropping in numbers, and new recruits seem fewer every year. I am not convinced that God is done using dedicated, passionate, long-term missionaries. But I do believe we are either not praying to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers, or those whom He has called are not going. Once the church starts crying out for workers, God will be faithful to respond. But I wonder if those called will respond willingly and positively. Will they do what it takes to fulfill their calls? There are certain steps that must be taken in order to successfully turn a call into a reality.

I am not convinced that God is done using dedicated, passionate, long-term missionaries.

I. Whole-Hearted Surrender

"Eric, will you be willing to be a missionary?" That was the question God whispered to my heart one night as I knelt next to my bed having my devotions. I was only thirteen. I knew if I said yes I would automatically being saying no to a lot of other things. My dreams, ambitions, wants and desires had to die. Thankfully those things had died the day I was sanctified. "Yes, Lord," I said, "I will go wherever you want me to go." Many of those who have been called and failed to show up for duty have been those who never learned what it meant to be "crucified with Christ." Die to the fact that you will live far from home, that you may not have all the modern conveniences, and that you may not be home for Christmas. Until you fall to the ground at Jesus' feet and die like a seed, you will never blossom as a missionary.

II. Serious Preparation

Upon my conversion and sanctification, there was a natural desire to win souls. But once I was called, there was an even greater urgency to get involved in ministry. From taking guitar lessons, Spanish lessons, and reading books on evangelism to handing out tracts and going on mission trips, I tried to do all that I could to prepare myself for ministry. Your preparation needs to begin immediately, and it needs to be taken seriously. Get involved in a Sunday school class; evangelize in your neighborhood; help on the church bus; do something, and do it now!

III. Focused Living

Be purposeful. Keep focused on your call and make decisions with your call in mind. If it's marriage, pray hard and long about your companion. A lot of people have made shipwreck of their calls because of the person they married. Stay out of debt!! Debt is the great missionary killer. Learn to live content with what you have. You don't have to have the best name-brands, the latest model car, or the newest phone. But you do have to fulfill your call, so make it your priority. Do whatever you have to do, for souls are depending on you. Make your call a mission completed. *©*



CHRISTINA BLACK Kaohsiung, Taiwan But, Lord, It Is Not MY Call



When my husband David began talking about moving to Taiwan in order to more effectively direct the work in HIM's Asian Region, it was a real struggle for me. I did not quickly admit this because I did not think it was a very spiritual attitude to have. When I thought about it (and I mostly just tried not to think about it), I usually breathed a prayer along the lines of "But, Lord, it's not *my* call." I remember during a missionary convention in Georgia as I was singing the closing song, "Give Me a Vision," I could not stop the tears because I felt such conviction concerning my reluctance and lack of personal vision for Asia.

You see, I was living in my *own* home for the first time in thirty years of ministry. Our car was paid for; I had just finished my doctorate in education; everything in my house was *my* style; and it all matched for the first time in my life. I loved my job at Hobe Sound Bible College training teachers for Christian schools. I liked living one street over from my mother and down the road from my daughter. In some ways, I was tired and ready to slow down.

David took me away for a weekend and told me about his vision for Asia. I cried. I am sorry to admit that, but I did. I immediately groaned in my spirit and said to myself, "I do not know if my nerves can take going back on pledged support and faith-based living."

God was so patient with me. He helped me do the right thing without the feelings I needed. He helped me unravel my United States life and ministry. He gave me strength to smile through all the packing, selling, and traveling. And somewhere along the way—I don't know when it happened—I was listening to David's presentation of "A Vision for Asia" once again, and I felt it—a burden, a call, if you will. In that moment, it dawned on me that God was helping my heart to follow my head. I remembered the words of my wise mother—words echoing from my childhood—"If you do the right thing with your head long enough, your heart will follow." I have a feeling I am not the only one who has faced this struggle. For those who may be facing a call by proxy (a pastor's wife moving to a new church, for example), here is my advice.

There truly is value in just doing what is right. I have often said, "I go where my husband goes." My firm belief that I am David's helpmate kept me grounded through this transition. I also reminded myself that life is not about ME. But I am thankful I did not have to continue living by grit alone. God poured and still pours out His grace on me.

Since moving to Taiwan, God has continued to bring clarity to my own personal "call." I have had some moments that have been extremely incredible, and I can see why God has me here. While at a school recently, I was asked to begin teacher training there. Within days two more of these training opportunities occurred. I was able to offer the second teacher training ever in the history of a secret Christian school in China. As I explained the difference between general and Christian education to those teachers and answered their questions, I understood that God had moved me to where He wanted me.

A homeschool mom recently asked me to teach her little girl her Bible classes. The child is extremely bright and spiritually advanced. Basically, God has given me a little girl to disciple. I am honored and know it is a privilege.

In addition to homemaking and helping my husband with his ministry, I teach university students on-line, tutor, travel for teacher training, assist our missionary ladies, and host within the HIM Education and Evangelism Center. When needed I minister in the churches with piano music, special singing, Sunday school teaching, or junior church. Teaching English camps this summer will be my fifth set of camps to be involved with for the evangelism of children. Daily, I am understanding more clearly that God will use me here if I do not put Him in a box and will just let Him lead me. I rejoice that God is making David's call more specifically *my* calling too! **3**











ROBERT LOPER Turks and Caicos Islands

What About When It Gets Tough? Obeying God in Adversity

The focus of our devotion determines the effect of adversity in our life. Genesis 22:1-14 teaches us how to remain faithful to God through adversity.

First, Abraham rejected following common sense. Little in church history came about by common sense obedience—in fact there was a disregard for it. Abraham fought off common sense while preparing and traveling to Mt. Moriah. He fought off common sense while building the altar, stacking the wood, placing his son on the altar, and raising his hand to slay his son. Had Abraham contemplated common sense, the voice of God would have become shaky. Remaining steadfast in obedience to God's appointment requires denying common sense.

Secondly, Abraham rejected following customs. Tradition speaks great things, but never allow it to become the guide of your life. Abraham fought off the voice of tradition that shouted, "This has never been done before, yet alone asked before." Think for a moment of Joseph's struggle before the angel of the Lord shared how Mary was pregnant. Tradition taught Joseph to put her to scorn or at least call off the engagement and put her away. But the voice of God held prominence over tradition. Had Abraham and Joseph contemplated customs, the voice of God would have become shaky. Remaining steadfast in obedience to God's appointment requires rejecting customs.

Thirdly, Abraham rejected following a call. Abraham teaches an important lesson: never solely devote yourself to a call. Follow God's voice, for His call can change. Imagine Abraham devoted to a call. The voice of the angel, *"Lay not thine hand upon the lad,"* would have been the devil appearing as an angel of light, the ram in the thicket a coincidence distracting from the call, and Isaac slain. Had it not been for the voice of God leading him along the journey to Mt. Moriah, the call would have grown dim. Devotion to a call can lead to doing something right without doing the right thing! Remaining steadfast in obedience to God's appointment requires rejecting devotion to a call.

Shortly after arriving in Grand Turk after deputation, the storm of adversity blew in and stalled around us. We discovered spiritual ground gained in the previous two years amongst the people had been lost. The church had been closed two-thirds of the time we were on deputation. Martha redeveloped serious blood pressure issues, and her teeth that were worked on in the States began aching. Michael developed ear issues that grew increasingly worse. Our vehicle deteriorated beyond repair. Suddenly without warning, Michael's ears became so bad we had to fly back to America, and adversity hitched a ride. The next day Tyler broke three bones in his foot. Multiple doctor visits for Michael and Tyler drained our expense account, creating more adversity, like how to provide for needs and how can we pay for flights back to Grand Turk? The storm has screamed, "Give up," but we refuse to listen to the voice of adversity! How? We choose to reject following common sense, customs, or a call and choose to listen to the voice of God. God's voice has brought calm in the midst of this storm.

I challenge you to commit to God being the finalizer in all you do! If you make God the rock of your life, you will have an immovable anchor that will hold you firm in adversity.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since the writing of this article, Rob and Martha Loper were informed that their son Michael needs two surgeries to correct the problem with his ears. Since Michael is unable to fly in the near future, the Lopers have been placed on a medical leave of absence and for now will not be returning to Grand Turk. However, Rob will continue his responsibilities as field director and periodically visit the works in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Please continue to pray for the Lopers during this time. *S*

YOUTH perspective



TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST (TLC), a ministry of Hobe Sound Bible Church, works in conjunction with Hope International Missions as our short-term missions program. In this article Emily Pearce, currently enrolled as a sophomore at Hobe Sound Bible College, shares how God has guided her plans as a result of a recent trip to Europe.

EMILY PEARCE

Knowing Me So Well, God Called Me

he first time my church friends mentioned Touching Lives for Christ (TLC) to me was in the spring of 2013. Since I had always wanted to go on a missionary trip outside of the United States, I decided the Amazon trip was the perfect opportunity for that summer. I immediately started fundraising with two of my friends who also decided to go on a mission trip that year. God provided all the money I needed in amazing ways. The experience was life-changing for me. During that summer the seed of missions was planted in my life. For a year it continued to grow while I was trying to decide on a college major.

While trying to determine if I wanted to join the Intercultural Studies program, Benjamin McDowell, a representative from Hope International Mission (HIM), spoke at my school. After his presentation I shared with him that I had gone on a TLC trip and would love to go on another one. While we were talking, I explained that I love photography. Mr. McDowell told me TLC and HIM were partnering to send a media team to the mission field for summer 2015. I was immediately interested! After praying about it and talking with Mr. Wiseman and my parents, I sent in my application to TLC. I had no clue how I was going to pay for everything if it worked out. I was in college with no job, and I was not close enough to do fundraising with the help of my church. But yet again, God proved what an awesome God He is by providing every penny that I needed for my second missionary trip.

Though my first trip to the Amazon changed my life, this second TLC trip had a much stronger and more specific impact on me. I have been on several mission trips, but I have never enjoyed one more than I delighted in this one. Pairing one of my passions photography—with two of my other passions—traveling and mission work—was a dream come true for me! This trip showed me that media mission work is actually a ministry and that it is a need on the field and at home. Coming back from this trip I made the decision to switch to Hobe Sound Bible College to work more closely with TLC and HIM. I am pursuing a BA in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis on media. I felt like God called me to Florida because He has a plan for me in this particular media mission field, and I can prepare well here. Choosing to serve God and let Him guide my life has led me to a place where I can use my passion and my talents for Him. Loving me so much and knowing me so well, God has called me specifically in my area of interest.

God is still calling people today!

Is He calling you? 🕉









CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS OF FEA

NO ONE IS OFF THE HOOK

AN INTERVIEW WITH



We all enjoy talking with those who are close to us. is an integral aspect of good relationships. In this conversation Steve Mowery, FEA Ministries board member and former missions director at Penn View Bible Institute, discusses God's general and specific call in the believer's life.

Does God still specifically call people to ministry in the 21st century? All Christians are called by God to be actively involved in the Great Commission. There are no exceptions, and no one is off the hook. The question to ask is not whether a person is called, but what his or her role is within the Great Commission—be it here at home or abroad. So yes, God definitely calls *all* Christians to ministry in the 21st century.

Beyond the general call to be His witness (Acts 1:8), God does sometimes give a specific call to a specific ministry. I prefer to think of this call as specific guidance within the broader calling. When the apostle Paul received what we know as the Macedonian call, it was not a call to missions. He was already a missionary. Rather it was direct guidance to lead him to a specific place in his ministry.

I have heard some people incorrectly say you are either a missionary or a mission field. It is crucial to understand that whereas all people are called to be witnesses, not everyone should go overseas as a full-time, cross-cultural missionary. Yet there are no doubt many more people who should be missionaries and are not responding to the direct guidance of God in their lives.

Why is there so much confusion surrounding the "call" of God? J. Herbert Kane, author of *Life and Work* on the Mission Field, said the term "mission call" should never have been coined because of the negative affect it is having on the church. I have personally seen conscientious people who have been frozen from involvement in foreign missions because of a heavy emphasis of needing to have a specific call before you do anything for the Lord. Sadly, our foundations of understanding what the Great Commission means are weak and eroding. We all have a general responsibility to win lost souls to God. But God does need specific people, in specific places, for specific tasks, and for specific periods of time. We need to commit ourselves to finding and fulfilling just what our role is within the Great Commission.

What are some obstacles hindering people from obeying the call to cross-cultural service? One of the big obstacles is family members who are not willing to release their loved ones into mission work. It is amazing how parents and grandparents play a role in throwing up roadblocks. I am also very fearful for our churches as they seem to become more and more materialistically minded. We do not have a passion for the lost and a commitment as we ought for the Great Commission.

Is it necessary to wait for a "call" before becoming actively involved in ministry? Every believer is to be involved in ministry at one level or another—be it ministering to children or by way of electrical and plumbing work. As Christians we cannot forget the spiritual dimension in all vocations. Do not allow the absence of a specific "call" to stop you from ministering.

What are some common ways God uses to specifically guide people in ministry? God speaks into our lives through other believers. He often uses missionaries, pastors, and family members to help guide people into what they should be doing in the Great Commission. He also leads through the ways in which He has gifted us. We must discover what unique set of spiritual gifts He has given us and determine if those gifts fit into a cross-cultural setting. Sometimes our gifts are more appropriately suited for the home base. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Bible, will confirm God's will and direction to the hearts of those who are specifically called to the mission field.

How much preparation is necessary before engaging in the call to serve? The preparation will depend on the task. No shortcuts are acceptable. If we shortcut our way into mission work, we are simply setting ourselves up for limited outreach, limited effectiveness and even failure. Therefore, determine what your specific job is, learn as much as you can about that assignment, then intentionally take whatever time is necessary to strategically prepare yourself. Your long-term success depends on it!

What roles do the church, family, and friends play in helping people respond to the call? The local church is a foundational pillar in the lives of all believers. This should especially be true for missionaries. The church, family and friends can play a very important role by serving as effective senders. Missionaries need to know there are people praying for them as they wage spiritual warfare. They need to have people keeping them informed and updated on news from home. They need moral support while on the field and, critically, when they return. And they need funding to keep them on the field. This sending support base is a crucial and foundational aspect of mission work.

With all this in mind, is God still calling? Yes, God is still calling! He is calling every Christian to be a part of the Great Commission, and He is giving specific direction for people in commission work. The future of missions is bright as we understand the needs of the lost and commit ourselves to building God's kingdom no matter the cost!

TRENDS

Short-Term Missions The Proof's in the Pudding



JOY BUDENSIEK

Probably all of us at one time or another have said, "The proof's in the pudding." This little idiom challenges us to wait and see what the outcome will be.

For many years that was the approach to short-term missions. Good things obviously resulted from these trips, but there were also some thought-provoking negatives. Three of the more common arguments against short-term trips were:

- Short-term missions represents a lot of money—money which could have been better spent on people and projects that were of a "long-term" nature.
- Short-term team members are not on the mission field long enough to really make a difference. They never learn the language, adjust to the food, or form lasting relationships.
- Sometimes the host missionary has a full agenda. Hosting a short-term missions team detracts from their "real mission-ary work."

I hear these concerns and believe those who champion them have some good points. But can we examine the thoughts more deeply?

To those who see enormous amounts of money spent on a "vacation," please remember that nearly one hundred percent of the time that money will not be given to either the host missionary or for any particular mission project. People usually give money to people, especially if it is their favorite niece or nephew.

While it is true that short-term participants are not gone long enough to experience the full cycle of "culture shock," they are there long enough to catch a vision of what God is doing in that part of His beloved vineyard. They are there long enough to interact with the church nationals and offer encouragement. They are there long enough to ride along the city streets and walk the village paths, letting the love of God shine through their lives, faces and one hundred and one variations of kindnesses.

We understand about the busy missionary. Their work is important, and their agendas are legitimate. But try to think of these teams as "re-inforcements." They go with hearts and hands ready to



At different points in the history of world missions, specific ministry methods have been utilized to reach the lost. In order to maintain missions relevancy, it is wise to analyze current mission trends with the goal of ensuring they remain effective. Joy Budensiek, founder of the short-term missions program Touching Lives for Christ (TLC) and Intercultural Studies Department chairperson for Hobe Sound Bible College, has distinguished herself through her passion for instilling a heart for missions in young people. Looking through the lenses of her years of experience, she thoughtfully addresses the merits of short-term missions.

assist in any way possible and often tackle those projects that seem so insurmountable. They are there to help those "if only I had time" missionary dreams come true. Host missionaries and teams truly are workers together.

The short-term mission reality has been around for over forty years, allowing some wonderful "proofs" to emerge. For example, you will be hard pressed to find any new long-term missionary who has not at some point gone on a short-term mission trip. Yes, it is true that most short-termers do not go out as long-term missionaries. However, only heaven can record how many prayers have been answered and people encouraged as a result of those few weeks on a mission field. Perhaps the most important result of short-term mission trips is what is born and grows in the hearts and minds of those who go on a short-term trip.

Still skeptical? Find most anyone who has taken a short-term mission trip, block an hour from your schedule, and prepare to see and hear them come alive. Watch their eyes sparkle, listen to their stories, and laugh with them over their "cultural experiences." But most of all listen as their hearts beat in tune with God's heart and love for the world.

Then and only then will you have tasted the "proof in the pudding." ${\mathfrak T}$



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

The traditional calendar of the people of Lesotho was closely tied to seasons and agriculture. Their year began in September (spring time in the Southern Hemisphere). They called this month "Loetse" (sharpen) because it was a time to sharpen plows and get other farming tools ready for the planting season. It is usually a dry month, and food can be scarce. So the traditional new year was not typically a time of celebration.

With the coming of missionaries and colonial influences in the 1800s, the Western New Year has gradually been adopted. Many Western ways have also become a part of the celebration. Fireworks are very popular on New Year's Eve. About midnight people begin setting off fire crackers, Roman candles, rockets, sparklers, etc. Older people tell us that before fireworks were readily available, people would celebrate by dragging burning tires through the village or running with "torches" made from burning cardboard boxes as they yelled, "Happy, happy, happy!" People also bang on pots, blow "vuvuzelas" (a very loud one-note horn), and the women "ululate" (a bit similar to yodeling).

Where HIM missionaries Glenn and Stephanie Gault live, New Year's Day is usually fairly low-key. Most people spend the day with family or friends, and alcohol flows freely among those who do not know Christ. In more rural mountain villages, people often celebrate with special music and dancing. Teenage girls in traditional leather skirts will perform "pumpkin songs" (customary music and dancing for unmarried girls), and men might perform the "mohobelo" dance.



Many African Christians hold a watch service on New Year's Eve. These vary from a short prayer meeting around midnight to an all-night



Scan QR code to view a traditional mohobelo dance.

service. Christian young people face a lot of temptation because of unsaved family during the holidays. So pastors often try to have a youth activity on New Year's Eve.

As you celebrate the New Year, take a moment to think about the various cultures around the world. Your life can be enriched by learning about and even trying some of their traditions. Happy New Year!

of Lesotho. This corn dish is sometimes the only food people will eat all day. However, it is also common to serve greens or vegetables with the papa. Last new year's eve the young people from HIM's church in Matukeng held a service from 10:00 p.m. until midnight, then cooked a big meal of papa and chakalaka (spicy vegetables). After everyone ate their fill, they sang and played games till daybreak. We hope you enjoy the taste of Lesotho!

PAPA is the staple food



A Traditional Recipe of Lesotho provided by Stephanie Gault

PAPA INGREDIENTS

2 ½ cups white corn meal (If necessary, yellow will work.) 4 cups water

CHAKALAKA INGREDIENTS

3 Tbsp oil

- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 green pepper, finely diced
- 1 chili pepper, finely diced or cayenne pepper to taste
- 2 tomatoes, finely diced
- 1 carrot, peeled and grated
- 1 16 oz. can of baked beans
- 1 tsp of curry powder
- Salt to tastes

HOW TO MAKE PAPA

Bring water to a boil and stir in corn meal. Simmer for about 30 minutes stirring often to prevent burning.

HOW TO MAKE CHAKALAKA

Saute onion and pepper in pan with oil until soft. Add remaining ingredients, mix thoroughly and simmer for fifteen minutes. Stir occasionally.

Serve chakalaka over papa.

Makes 4-5 servings.



STEPHANIE GAULT



PROFILES HIM MISSIONARIES PAST AND PRESENT













Our Call to FEA Missions

A rugged, ruddy-faced man with an infectious grin and a rich southern accent was standing on the doorstep of our little three-room bungalow. It was a bright, sunny morning in early June, the summer of 1969. Lois and I were living on the campus of what would become known as Sea Breeze Community. We were students of Hobe Sound Bible College, and school was out for the summer. Little did we realize how the future would unfold for us from that day forward. Brother Phil Newton, FEA Missions Director, had come to pick us up and take us to the airport in Stuart, Florida. There we crammed into a Cessna 172, N6955A, for our very first airplane ride. The little four-seater, single-engine plane, piloted by Brother Newton, winged its way over the Atlantic Ocean to Grand Bahama Island where we had our first taste of missionary life.

We had heard Brother Phil, as he was affectionately called, speak in chapel, and our hearts were stirred. We had been praying about "doing something" for the Lord. We were newly married and eager to get some practical experience for our life's work. We happily volunteered to help out in the Bahamas that summer. I had one more year of Bible college. After graduation our plans were to head north to Pennsylvania and our first pastorate. But that trip to the islands changed everything.

For two and a half months Grand Bahama was our home. Just as surely as the sun rose every morning over the ocean surrounding our island home, and just as softly as the gentle surf washed its sandy shores, so surely and softly did God work on our hearts. We fell in love with the Bahamian people. We admired and followed Brother and Sister Newton (Phil and Betty), and we felt a kinship with those early FEA missionaries. After graduation a year later we joined their ranks. How privileged we would be to spend sixteen years with FEA Missions. Hope International Missions (formerly FEA Missions) has been blessed with scores of dedicated missionaries since its inception in 1961. These men and women have faithfully and diligently ministered to needy people around the globe. Through their efforts countless individuals have come to Christ. From time to time, we want to honor the lives of these heroes. In this profile Joseph Smith, FEA missionary for sixteen years and missions director for four years, shares how God called him and his wife Lois to the mission field. Their service continues as Joe currently serves on the board of FEA Ministries. We are indebted to the Smiths for their many years of faithful service with FEA. Thank you!

Looking back at that early beginning, how very thankful I am for God's leadership. The intervening years have brought many blessings: six children and eleven grandchildren; many friends and acquaintances; years of pastoring in North Carolina, as well as traveling in evangelism; but nothing dims the romance and excitement of that first summer in the Bahamas. Oh yes, and by the way, we finally did make it all the way north to Pennsylvania. For six and a half years now, I have been serving as pastor of my home church in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

In the poem he wrote to his wife Geraldine in commemoration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, Rev. H. Robb French said something I love to repeat:

"We gave our hearts to Jesus, we chose the narrow way,

It pays a million times or more, tell all young folk it pays." Yes, folks, it really does pay! *&*

Philip Geise Family Transition Statement



fter much prayer and consideration, the FEA Board of Directors and Philip Geise came to an understanding that at this juncture in his missionary career it would be best for him

and his family not to return to his former field of service in Ladybrand, South Africa, under Hope International Missions. Philip is a fine Christian gentleman and is deliberate and conscientious in what he does. We believe his future is secure in the providential leadership of God. We ask for your prayers as Philip seeks and responds to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We also ask for your prayers as we assess the status of the gap we need to bridge as a result of this transition. As the work of God continues, your prayerful support is appreciated—for both HIM and the Geise family. In the near future, Philip will be providing contact and support information for their ongoing ministry. We thank you once again for your faithful partnership! 🕸

Remembering Benjamin Bell



Benjamin Bell went to be with Jesus September 17, 2015, at the age of 87. He lived a life of integrity and faithful commitment to Christ. For twenty-five years, beginning in 1984, he served with excellence in FEA's maintenance department. FEA

Ministries is indebted to his life and service 🎕



As you prayerfully consider the kind of legacy you want to leave to benefit the Kingdom of God long after your death, consider making a gift to advance the cause of missions at Hope International Missions. Your charitable gift could make an eternal difference on any of the fields where HIM is currently working. The look of joy on the faces of little children's at an orphanage, the hope of the Gospel to the lost in a third world country, or helping to build a new church could be made possible by a legacy gift as part of your estate planning. For more information about Estate Planning, or to designate a gift for a specific field of ministry at HIM, please call us at 772-546-1113.

A gift through your Estate Planning can make a lasting difference today.

HOBE SOUND BIBLE COLLEGE PRESENTS THE

SEA BREEZE LECTURE SERIES



- Date: February 10 & 11, 2016
- Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday
- Theme: The Wesleyan Theological Legacy

Location: Reiff Education Center 11305 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound, FL 33455

- Purpose: To provide a forum for learning and discussion of biblical, theological and historical issues relevant to the church and its mission
- Artifacts Rare and valuable historical artifacts will be Display: displayed from the private collections of Benjamin Crawford and Marsh Jones.
 - Included in this display will be the following:
 - Handwritten letters from John Wesley to various notable recipients
 - A Charles Wesley hymn manuscript in his own handwriting • An extremely rare bust of John Wesley created in his lifetime
 - First edition manuscripts of notable Wesleyan publications



call: 772-545-1400 ext. 1007 or email: paulstetler@hsbc.edu



Ben Crawford ARTIFACT SPECIALIST



SESSION I — 2/10 | 1:00 PM John Wesley in the Arc of Church History Dr. Paul Kaufman



SESSION II — 2/10 | 2:10 PM **Charles Wesley: The** Singer of Methodism Dr. Randall McElwain



SESSION III — 2/11 | 1:00 PM John Wesley and the Second Generation Dr. Marsh Jones



SESSION IV — 2/11 | 2:10 PM John Wesley and the **Holiness Movement** Rev. William Snider

SEA BREEZE COMMUNITY



JON TOFTE SBC Director

Entertaining Strangers...and Friends, Too!

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2



S ome forty-plus years ago, a facility dedicated to providing hospitality to guests of the ministries here in Hobe Sound was fittingly dedicated as *Friendship Hall*. Since then, many guests have found a welcome place for hospitality and fellotwship. And more than a few "strangers" have found a place where they could be "entertained" in accordance with the biblical admonition.

Although a shared kitchen and small lobby provide some opportunities for extended conversation, one thing that has been lacking is a place where a larger group of guests could enjoy fellowship and the mild tropical breezes that our Florida winters bring. Two small glider loveseats crowded at the building's entrance have seen a lot of service in spite of their close quarters and limited seating. Given this obvious desire on the part of our guests, FEA Ministries was extraordinarily blessed when we received a generous gift from Leslie Crawford to much more adequately meet this need.

Construction is now underway on a significantly enlarged covered front porch. This addition will give Friendship Hall a more inviting and homelike appearance. More importantly, with a "Cracker Barrel" type front porch, seating will at last be adequate for many guests to spend time <u>together</u>. We



are hoping to have rocking chairs, tables, and other seating to allow our visitors to better share time with friends, new and old, and to encourage genuine Christian fellowship.

Although funds have been provided for this new fellowship porch, your support is still needed to see this project through to its completion. We have a few rooms left to renovate. In addition to porch furniture, we also would like to see the building repainted and decorative shutters installed around the front windows. New front doors, too, are an important need. Perhaps you could help us with one of these projects. Maybe you are even able to renovate an entire room in honor of a loved one. Dedications, however, are also available for a single rocking chair or other furnishings. Please feel free to contact Jon Tofte about the possibilities for helping FEA Ministries further improve Friendship—and Manor—Halls





and the options for honorary dedications.

With these improvements FEA Ministries believes that Friendship Hall will be able to live up to its name for another generation to come. Long-time friends, guests of our ministries, and even "strangers" will have a place to be renewed and sense God's presence. And, who knows, we may even entertain angels unaware!

You can contact Jon Tofte at: jontofte@feaministries.org or at 772.546.1113 \$ Jim Elliot, famous missionary martyr in Ecuador, referenced the attitude of many people of his day when he wrote in one of his journal entries, "They [say they] don't 'feel called' to the mission field. We don't need a call; we need a kick in the pants." It is unfortunate that many people are not where God wants them today because they are confused about "the call" or feel they have not received a specific "calling." While we believe God speaks clearly to people through His word and other godly influences, we also affirm that He has given the Great Commission to all believers. Every Christian is expected to witness to those who do not know Christ as their personal Savior. This should happen at home and abroad.

PRAY

According to the *Joshua Project*, over forty-two percent of the world's population is still considered unreached. Please join us in praying that God will help individuals understand their role in reaching these souls. We are expecting many more people to begin seeing the need of billions who do not know God and start responding to that need. Our desire is to continue mobilizing a growing missionary force which will bring the gospel message to the ends of the earth!

PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST God is still

calling! However, Satan wants to distract people from their responsibility to reach the lost. **Pray that those who should be going to the mission field will learn to ignore the distractions surrounding them and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit's guidance.**

PRAY AGAINST OBSTACLES There are many things that can hinder individuals from obeying the call. Some-

times friends or family members discourage people from the call because they are afraid of what will happen to their loved one, or they do not want to sacrifice the time they could spend together. Materialism and debt can make it nearly impossible to go to the mission field. Fear of the unknown and a reluctance to give up the comforts of home can make obedience to the call seem like an impossible task. **Pray people will realize that true happiness and fulfillment only come through following God's will for their lives. Ask God to help Christians combat the lies of the enemy.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREPARING

There are several individuals who are preparing to go to the mission field under Hope International Missions. Though this is an exciting time for them as they anticipate the future, it can also be difficult and discouraging. **Pray for God's special strength as they prepare and that God will help them be effective in their missionary work.**

PRAY FOR SEA BREEZE CAMP Many individuals have heard God calling them to a specific work during Sea Breeze Camp. We are thankful for God's presence every year and for this time when Christians from around the country draw closer to Him and strengthen their relationship with each other. Since there are many needs associated with camp, we ask that you would **join us in praying for the financial aspect, the camp workers as they minister, and the spiritual needs of those who attend.**

There is an immense need for missionaries today.

The task of the Great Commission is far from finished.



Scan the code to watch a video which clearly outlines the state of global missions.

THE MISSIONARY CALL M. DAVID SILLS

This book helps make the missionary call seem less intimidating and more easily understood. It is a practical guide to assist those who are preparing for the mission field and those wondering if they are called to missions. Purchase it at your local Christian bookstore or from many online retailers.

THE MISSIONARY CALL CALL FIND YOUR PLACE is GOD'S PLAN for the WORLD



PO Box 1065 | Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Address Service Requested



DID YOU KNOW...

TEA stands for Florida Evangelistic Association. It was incorporated in 1946 in West Palm Beach, Florida. The first FEA camp meeting was held in West Palm.

2 In 1947 FEA founder H. Robb French purchased twenty-four acres in Hobe Sound, Florida, and moved the organization to the new location.

3 At Hobe Sound the FEA camp was renamed Sea Breeze Camp Meeting. The first camp had less than 100 people in attendance.

4 In the sixty-nine years since Sea Breeze Camp began, the only time a Sunday morning preaching service has been interrupted was for

the funeral of Geraldine French, wife of H. Robb French.

5 In the early 1990s after the Iron Curtain fell, over \$100,000 was raised in one camp meeting to purchase Bibles for distribution in Russia.

