

Keeping on FOCUS

Newsletter for Don and Carmen Bryant

July 28, 2009

Expanding horizons

In June, we finished the third qualifying seminar for the WorldLink Graduate Center (WLGC) with students from Nigeria, Tunisia (including one originally from Scandinavia), Ethiopia, Burundi, and Cuba. All of these students will be training mission leaders in their home countries, with the exception of the last, who we anticipate will be training others here in the States. We continue to be amazed at how God uses these dedicated servants under sometimes severe life-situations.

Until now, workers from Peru have not been able to get visas to come to Portland for the two-month seminars. Earlier this year, two of our personnel flew to Lima to discuss how we might overcome these difficulties. As a result, early in 2010 the WLGC will take its seminar to Peru instead of holding it in Portland. The dean will likely stay the entire two months, but the rest of us will go for shorter periods to teach our segments of the seminar. Although the dates for my going aren't certain yet, it will be roughly in the latter part of March.



Machu Picchu in the Andes

While I'm there, I'd love to visit Machu Picchu. But the elevation is high enough (roughly 8,000 ft.) that my ear problem will have to be completely gone before I could even consider it.

A new Campus Ambassador intern



Candice Jeske graduated from Multnomah University (formerly Multnomah Bible College) in May with a degree in teaching English as a second language (ESL). She has been accepted as an intern with Campus Ambassadors (Missions Door), working with me in FOCUS. One of her main assignments, of course, will be to help with our ESL program. She already has experience with FOCUS, having been an Associate for the last two years.

Candice is working in Portland part time while she embarks on that scary journey of raising support for her ministry.

Financial need

This morning I phoned Missions Door and asked them to reduce my monthly take-home pay by another \$350+ until my debt with them is paid off. This is in addition to the \$300 cut they initiated several months ago. The debt, due primarily to the expenses of ministry (mostly travel), now stands at \$4,465.80. I'm voluntarily taking the cut because I don't want to keep this debt running.

I could really use some help with this. There are actually two needs. The first is for one-time gifts toward paying off the debt. The second is to enlist additional supporters who will contribute monthly

towards my ministry with international students, including that of teaching at WorldLink Graduate School. (The school does not pay me; it is part of my assignment under Missions Door.)

Contributions can be made online or through the mail. The addresses are at the bottom of this letter. Thank you for any help you can give. Even if you can't give financially at this time, please pray that this debt will be wiped out quickly.

Prayer updates and requests

The last update at the end of May was written just before I left for the ACMI conference in Los Angeles, which was followed by the Campus Ambassadors Staff Forum in Prescott, Arizona. I so much appreciated your prayers during that time. Here's an update:

1. **Ear problem** – All the flying didn't make things worse (except maybe for a day or so after the flight), so that much is good news. However it is now three months since the problem first started and I'm not really any better. I still have significant hearing loss in my right ear. Pain is severe enough so that I at times need to stay home from work. I have another doctor's appointment tomorrow.
2. **Conferences and Board meetings** – In general, the ACMI conference and Board meetings went well. I have been elected Board Chair for another year. We continue to look for someone in international student ministry to become our Executive Director. In the meantime, we have an interim Executive Director. Please pray for him and the Board as we lead the organization.
3. **Non-Christian attendees at ACMI conference** – All was peaceful. Praise the Lord for that!
4. **Presentations** – My paper on "Fighting Satan on His Turf" was received well. Several stayed afterwards to discuss personal issues of spiritual warfare.
5. **Staff Forum in Arizona** – This event was the culmination of my year of heavier-than-usual ministry travel. For a couple of days, the Area Directors met to discuss issues involving all the campus ministries under Missions Door. We then moved to Chapel Rock campground in Prescott to greet Campus Ambassadors staff and interns from the USA and Mexico for several days of fellowship and training. Unfortunately for me, I was ill much of the time and missed many of the meetings. My fever broke just in time to fly back to Portland. The rest of June was largely spent in recovery.



Rock Chapel at Chapel Rock

6. Upcoming events for prayer

- August 5 (next week) – I'll be teaching all day at WorldLink: one session on storytelling as an evangelistic tool in cross-cultural ministry, and two sessions on "doing" theology in other cultures.
- August 16-24 – Vacation in Central Oregon. Pray that Don and I will have a restful time together.
- September 11-13 – FOCUS Associates' retreat on the Oregon coast.
- October 5-16 – Writers' workshop at WorldLink. (One of my main jobs at WorldLink is writing curriculum for our Internet Master's program.)
- October 17 – Speaking at women's retreat in Central Point, Oregon

- November 18-20 – The annual meetings of the Evangelical Theological Society in New Orleans. I will be presenting a paper entitled “Morality in Orality: Ethics in Biblical Storytelling.” Pray for me as I research the subject and write the paper. (The entire conference is focusing on ethics this year.)

Jim’s visit west

Our son, Jim, recently came to the West Coast on Coast Guard business. With one companion ticket and one frequent flyer ticket, Sam and Abby got to come with him. Although we have occasionally flown to the East Coast to visit them, this is the first time in eight years that the grandchildren have been able to visit us here. (Jim’s wife, Kim, couldn’t come this time.) They divided their time between our place and visiting their cousins near Salem, with one day at the beach for all of us (except for Jim, who was at work in N. California).

On their last day here, Don dressed Sam and Abby up in conglomerations of Filipino and Indonesian souvenirs.



Abby with Ifugao (Filipino) skirt and Indonesian basket



Sam with bark shirt and village axe, holding the skull of an orangutan. The hornbill headdress is from the Philippines.



Cousins Kalila and Abby



Cousins A.J. and Sam



Carmen Bryant is with Missions Door, seconded to FOCUS (Friends of Overseas Citizens and University Students) and to WorldLink Graduate Center, both in Portland, OR. She and Don (now retired) were with CBInternational from 1969-1997, in Indonesia and the Philippines.

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 Missions Door: 2530 Washington St., Denver, CO 80205-3142; <http://missionsdoor.org>; donations for Carmen’s work with FOCUS and WorldLink Graduate Center can be made by mail or on the web site of Missions Door.

Note: New web page. It is still being developed. You’ll find some of my papers here. You can also contact me on Facebook.