



...*Impacting Lives...*

Good News! We have added three children to our orphanage in Meru, Kenya. Ian, Megan and Sharon are receiving the loving care they desperately needed. That makes 17 children cared for at our facility. Our desire is to add three more in the near future. What an opportunity to love on the least through word and deed.



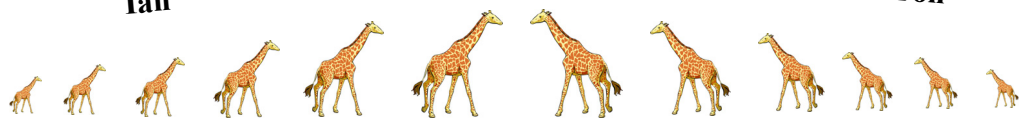
Ian



Megan



Sharon



Our first Bible institute effort in India made an impact. Listen to the words of our coordinator, Kiran, as he describes what took place during this first class dealing with how to study the Bible.

“God has shown his grace in helping us to train missionaries [in two provinces] Many of the tribes in these areas don’t have [a] Bible in their vernacular language. Preaching the gospel is a great challenge.... But God in his grace opened a door to bridge these challenges.... Mr. Ron [the teacher] is a great blessing. His dedication and passion to serve the Lord [at] the age of 75 has touched many lives.... Every principle that he taught was empirically illustrated and rationally vivid. He has poured out his experience and years of scholastic learning into the class through simple steps. Thank you World Reach for sending Mr. Ron.... We are greatly indebted and insolvent for all the help.”



Students Hungry for the Word

You may have noticed that Ron, the teacher, is 75 years old. Two observations— First, we are never too old to serve the Lord. Our service may not be in the form of an arduous trip to India, but never believe the lie that you’re too old to serve. Second, what a life worth emulating and example to younger followers of Christ. By the way, Ron’s father was led to the Lord during WWII by Dawson Troutman, founder of the Navigators.



“Mr. Ron”

Thanks for helping make this possible!

Paul & Kathy



See the other side for a “nugget” from God’s Word.

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News from the Whitmores

“For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

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Of Face and Veil

Recently I was reminded of the innate ability of God's Word to, as the writer of Hebrews declares, pierce the soul. While reading through II Corinthians 3, a perspective jumped out at me that I had never before noticed. In this passage, the apostle Paul is commenting on the splendor of Christ's ministry contrasted against the Old Testament law. Paul refers back to Moses and a period during the exodus when, the skin of his face would shine following his encounters with God. Exodus 34:29-36 says that after his meetings with God and speaking to the people Moses would put a veil over his face. I had always assumed that the veil was to cover up the shining. But Paul says in II Corinthians 3:12 that Moses covered his face, "...so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor." In others words, he didn't want them to see that the effect of his encounters with God was temporary. Said another way, the shine Moses exhibited needed continuing encounters; a one and done encounter was not sufficient.

So what's the takeaway? Simply this, I cannot rely and rest on a single, past encounter with the living God for my walk to stay vibrant. As with Moses, to do so will mean that my transformation will fade. Instead, I need to experience Him afresh and often. That's why my habit needs to be a daily encounter with the Father. Jesus said, and this is very important, that the scriptures bear witness to Him and that He bears witness to (reveals) the Father. The Gospel of Luke records for us a seminal moment during his encounter with two disciples who met Him on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection— "...beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interrupted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Later these two commented on their encounter, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us... while He opened to us the scriptures?"

Therefore, some questions are in order: Is the impact on me by my relationship with God renewed through frequent and intimate encounters or fueled only by a fading memory of a brief moment many days past? When I do come into His presence, are my encounters dry and perfunctory or refreshing and passionate. Do I simply check off an obligation box or does my heart burn within me? If the truth were known, do I don a veil of pretend so that others won't see my spiritual poverty and emptiness or does my life shine from fresh encounters with the Savior?

The Psalmist said it this way—

*The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

Psalms 19:7-10