



“First the bread, then the Bread of Life!”

Doug and Becky Neel ---- December 2008

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Sustaining the Mission of God

Here's something absolutely nuts for two-faith based missionaries to ask you - Is the Mission of God sustainable without your personal finances?

Since our last newsletter to you, local, state, federal, and global economies have gone “wacko”. We would venture to bet that you have received as many mailings as we have from numerous charitable organizations asking for financial assistance.

Now, we do not want to make light of the economic situations around the world and how difficult things are during this time. It has impacted us personally and also our immediate family. But we are convinced that our God does, in fact, take care of His children. So we are not going to worry about our clothing, and we are not going to worry about tomorrow, and we are not going to worry about what we are going to eat or drink (Matthew 6:25-34).

But here is the big “however”. Are we (Doug and Becky) able to sustain our call to missions without the personal contributions of your finances? The truth – No. But we do believe that God takes care of our needs through our supporters such as you; therefore, our daily bread is being provided by people like you who are willing to be part of the mission of God. Richard Coleman, Director for Mobilization and Candidacy for The Mission Society, wrote the following in the fall 2008

issue of “Unfinished”: “All believers are called to be involved in supporting the work of missions; all of us have a part to play, even if our names are never known.”

The mission of God is about the Kingdom of God and that is what we all seek. Bryant Myers in *Serving with the Poor in Latin America* writes, “The key to sustainability is people, not money.” He goes on to say that, “The church is both the agent of change and the hope of the future...a spiritually alive, socially engaged church is a key to causing and sustaining true transformation.”

Here is our point as we move into the Advent and Christmas season. Certainly the mission of God is sustainable, through God's Son, Jesus the Messiah not through global economies! Sustainable through His body, the Church. Sustainable through His people doing their part:

PRAYING, GIVING, GOING!

Have a wonderful and blessed celebration of the coming of our Savior, Jesus as you celebrate His birth this Christmastime. Remember Agrimissions - there are some wonderful things happening and God continues to add countries to our list that need service of the ministry to offer “First the bread and then the Bread of Life.”

Strength and Courage,

Doug and Becky

MINISTRY UPDATE

* **September** – Ecuador—followed up on garden and irrigation demonstration; back in March/April 2009 for future planning

* **October** – attended a great meeting with Agrimissions board of advisors; major decisions made concerning Douglas becoming director in August 2009; spoke in United Methodist churches in Caledonia, MS

* **November** – spoke in churches in Big Bend of Texas; thanks to following churches for hosting and supporting us: Sanderson UMC, Marathon UMC, Ft. Davis UMC, Alpine UMW, SRSU Wesley Foundation, Alpine Ministerial Alliance, and University Baptist; finalized Memorandum of Understanding with Crockett UMC, Crockett, TX

* **November/December** – worked at Crockett, TX property, future headquarters of Agrimissions; attended training at Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)



**The Mission
Society**

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