

INDEPENDENT GOSPEL MISSIONS

A BAPTIST MISSION AGENCY

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“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs¹, and for seasons², and for days, and years³”

1 owt > flags, beacons, monuments 2 mowed > an appointment, fixed times of assembly for a purpose 3 shakeh > to fold or double over, to transmute

Dear Friends and Prayer Warriors,

As we have turned the final page of the 2008 calendar, Andrea and I are rejoicing that you are our partners in the Gospel. As God promised in Genesis, He has folded 2008 into history (His story) and allowed us to enter 2009 with joyful hearts! We are glad you have continued with us, for like the Apostle Paul spoke concerning Titus, we tell those we minister to that you are our “partners and fellow helpers” (2 Cor. 8:23). If it were not for you, humanly speaking, we would be stopped in our tracks, and thus we “thank our God upon every remembrance of you!” (Phil. 1:3)

Without your prayers and support, we would still be God’s vessels serving Him, but because of you, His grace has been multiplied! We rejoice in the miracles and blessings He has poured out on “our” (1st person plural) –(yours also because of your love, prayers and financial support) ministry. Together with you we have been abundantly blessed. As Paul said to the Philippians --

*“fruit has abounded to your account” and you can count on the fact that:
“God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”*

Praying partners, we thought you might like to read a copy of our report to the mission. It was accepted by the council this past week. For 2008,

IGM Annual Report

What a great year! As we have just wrapped up our third year and we trust the last year of our transition, Andrea and I are rejoicing in God’s abundant goodness. Today is Christmas and, as I write this report, our kids and grandkids will be here in a few hours. This will be the first time to have them in our home in 12 years! Our hearts and minds are full memories of countries, salvation decisions, confirmations, dedications to service, pastors encouraged, calls in hospitals, seeing miraculous healings, traveling 20,000 miles in the motor home and miracles beyond measure both large and small. God has truly shown us great and mighty things as He has called and allowed us to serve Him.

Our health is now better than ever, our support seems steady with some recent losses due to the down turn in our economy. With the move from the parsonage in Everett, WA to our home in Lancaster 12-08 the matter of living in three places plus traveling the world seems to have ended. Now we need to settle in as the Lord provides the time and materials to fix (a lot of mold and a broken water main) and refresh our home. We praise the Lord that we now have a good local church, a doctor, and a grocery store down the street, consistent internet, phone and laundry! We have both received good bills-of-health from our doctors. We expect that we will now be able to “take a trip” not “live one!” Andrea has been very understanding!

We believe that our mission ministry has also been profitable for Christ’s church and His kingdom.

In the last three years we have been around the world twice, covered twenty plus countries, and crisscrossed the US east to west and north to south. In our travels, IGM has been very well accepted by churches, pastors, colleges, seminaries, and in each country. Salvations, confirmations of salvations and calls to the ministry have occurred. We added two new coordinators, Rafael and Charing Lubaton in the Philippines and Gulshan and Mema Lol in India this past year. Andrea and I visited the Philippines to introduce the Lubatons in October and look forward to introducing Gulshan to our pastors in India this year. In addition, as you know, we accepted the resignations of our dear brother and sister Art and Gina Maxwell. For us it was a personal loss as they were the



ones who first hosted us in their country and taught us the art of travel and the many methods of ministry. We continue in prayer for them.

Our Goals for this next year:

- ❖ Our Coordinator's Retreat with Dr. Lloyd and Cheri McKee -- He will be speaking on the topic of "Christians and Conflict," as it relates to the home, family, leadership and ministry.
- ❖ Asking our coordinators to see the necessity of updating their mission and interpersonal relationships by attending their retreat and also assisting the home office by helping at the mission school and meeting with the council at that time.
- ❖ Writing letters to and visiting churches with our coordinators who need help raising support
- ❖ Continuing to travel with our coordinators to visit their fields (West Africa with Jim Arnold for three weeks in February)
- ❖ Seeking the Lord's guidance for a coordinator for Kenya
- ❖ Contacting men in countries where there are currently no coordinators and where, as a mission, we have never had personal field contact for encouragement, accountability and education (Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand in April)
- ❖ It is our continuing goal to seek to introduce and open up new areas of the US to an awareness of IGM and its ministries. This includes attending Bible and missions conferences and setting up personal meetings with pastors and fellowships.
- ❖ Continue to consider requests from other countries where IGM has no presence
- ❖ Two and one half months (August through October) of travel with IGM national pastors

Brethren, our hearts and minds are full of awe and gratitude to God for having shown us great and mighty things. They are also fully concerned with what our brothers and sisters suffer for His name and we may suffer in the days to come. Please pray for us as we enter our fourth year of ministry with IGM and our forty-first year of serving our Savior full time.

Prayer and Praise

- ❖ Many, many decisions have been made for Christ this past year, pray that folks will follow through.
- ❖ Thanks for praying for our G.kids; they were seriously ill w/pneumonia. God gave the Drs. wisdom and healed them!
- ❖ We leave for West Africa February 8th. It will be a long and arduous journey with ministries in 7 countries, some of which are controlled by those who are currently enemies of the Gospel...but we must remember that they are "beloved for the Father's sake" (Romans 11:28). Pray for safety and strength.
- ❖ Please, please pray us along the way; there are situations where things can go very wrong (humanly speaking), especially in cross-cultural understanding.

- Feb. 8 Delta Air to New York, JFK
- Feb. 9 Delta Air New York to Dakar, Senegal
- Feb 10 Senegal Air Senegal to Bamako, Mali
- Feb 11 Air Senegal to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Feb 13 Ethiopian Airlines to Lome, Togo, by vehicle to Benin
- Feb 18 Air Ivoire from Lome, Togo to Accra, Ghana
- Feb 18 Kenya Airways to Monrovia, Liberia
- Feb 23 Kenya Airways to Accra, Ghana
- Feb 25 Delta Air to New York, then to Cleveland
- Mar 3 Delta Air to Los Angeles



- Diseases are prevalent and while we have had arms full of shots and mouths full of pills, one never knows.
- Expectations of those we meet with will vary: some seeking encouragement, advice and edification while at the same time we will seek spiritual and practical accountability and how we can be of further assistance.
- ❖ A trip of this nature has many hidden costs. Governments have hidden fees and our brothers and sisters can be hungry or hurting with no resources for assistance. At that point we believe I John 3:17 must come into action!
- ❖ Our monthly income is down as times are hard and some have had to stop their support. Pray for new partners.
- ❖ A closing praise! This past month Andrea-- for the first time in 12+ years got to sleep in her own bedroom, in our own house for the whole month! And it snowed!... on the Mojave Desert! -- YES!
- ❖ Thanks for your prayers and your emotional and financial support as the Lord unfolds this new year -- it keeps us going and going and going!

Your Friends and Partners in Christ's Service,

Rex and Andrea

Rex and Andrea Furman

P.S. Our theme for the year is what Christ called "the greatest commandment which is found in Mark 12:30-31

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and With all thy strength: this is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.