

March 12, 2007

A letter from Howard & Aileen Ostendorff

Mission Leaders' Resolve to Strengthen Marriages

Dear Beloved Ministry Partners,

"A young, dynamic couple with two young boys is sent 'home' to America to get help. During five years of ministry experience in Latin America, they had learned the language and adapted to the culture. Relationships with nationals had developed. Now, they are 'off the field.'



"You don't have to convince us. We know the need is

"Another young, vibrant couple with three small children was sent 'home' to get help. They served for eight years in a closed country where traditional missionaries are not allowed. They are fluent in a difficult language. They are effective in ministry. They, too, were sent home." (Stories source: Bill Sparks, a mission agency care provider)

"What do these couples have in common? Both have a strong call to live and minister cross-culturally overseas. Both have a deep passion to reach a lost world. What happened and why are they home? Both had serious family issues!"

Healthy marriages are vital for the Great Commission so thank you for praying for February 14th Orlando meeting with the CEO's of 18 large mission agency's and their wives. They agreed to take the next steps: a sample survey

of the missionaries of each organization and a future summit in summer '08 here in Little Rock!

This could be one of the most strategic projects FamilyLife has ever done!

These last weeks have been extremely busy! Aileen and I have taken on the **responsibilities for sub-Saharan Africa** due to the loss of a key staff. **Please pray for our trip in April:**

- 3-5 Travel to Nairobi, Kenya
- 6-9 At the coast with friends
- 10-11 Consultations, speaking at seminary
- 12-13 FL Military Leaders Training
- 13-15 Military FamilyLife Marriage conf.
- 16-18 Kigali, Rwanda –trainings
- 19-22 Kampala, Uganda -consultations & seminar
- 23-24 Consultations in Kenya/Fly to Berlin
- 25-28 Consultations in Berlin, Germany
- 29 Fly Home

Many projects and added responsibilities have caused my restless sleep and tiredness. God's Word has been a correction and a comfort:

"Blessed is the manwho mediates on the Law of the Lord day and night. And he will be like [one] who prospers in all that he does." (Ps. 1)

One night, when awakened by another "stress" dream the Lord reminded me of Philipians 4:8,

"Be anxious for NOTHING, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God."

Thank you Lord for the reminder and the peace that came as I realized that I have no need to be anxious! You have always been faithful!

Howard & Aileen

Changed Life Story:

My husband and I got married when we were 17 and still in high school. We are now 23 and have been married for six years. Somehow we have beat the odds. I know it was God protecting us. We have two children, a beautiful home and a supportive family. But we knew something was missing in our marriage.

When we came this past weekend to the conference, we found just what it was. It was God. No matter how much we loved each other or desired to be together forever, we would never flourish without God. We look so forward to implementing the tools we learned at the conference in our marriage and parenting.

I already see a different love reflected from my husband, and even our young children sense it. I already feel as though my heart has changed and I love my husband the way that God intended for me to love him... unconditionally.

Thank you so much for your ministry. I became a Christian at this seminar and nothing is greater than that!

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