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July-Aug 2023 Newsletter

“And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So, it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.” Neh. 2:6

Nehemiah had a burden for the city of Jerusalem which resulted in a calling to go and rebuild the walls. This burden was so overwhelming that the king Artaxerxes noticed and asked Nehemiah why his countenance was sad? Nehemiah shared his burdens and the king then asked him how long shall your journey be? While reading this passage, I begin to think of those that would go on this journey with him. How that Nehemiah's burden could only be fulfilled if there were others that would bear this burden with him. For the past 36 years, many have been faithful on this journey with Judy and me. Thanks again to all that have been with us from the beginning and who continue to join us along the way and be with us when Christ returns!

The past couple months have been busy with church meetings and conferences. We have traveled over 20,000 miles flying and driving and again the Lord has blessed us with safety and care along the way. I want to say again thank you to all those that the Lord has used to meet our needs. Thank you for your support financially and prayerfully.

Our annual Rock of Ages Conference was again a tremendous week of encouragement and challenge to press on for the Lord. Wednesday night of the meeting was a special blessing; the entire service consisted of an altar call where many families received great victories but most of all seeing several that were saved. It is so hard to describe that night of service; you just had to be there. The Spirit moved and helped so many of us in so many different ways. We certainly walked away that night with a new pep in our step!

BRAZIL

Let me first say thank you for all the prayers and personal help to make this trip. The purpose of the trip was to honor several of our missionary families for their years of service. We had two families that have been serving as prison chaplains for 20 years. I still remember when Brother Sizemore and I traveled to the country and began working the prisons. It wasn't long until the Lord began raising up Brazilian families to serve with us; it was a great honor for me to be a part of this great work. We would hold the annual Rock of Ages Brazil conference while in the country. What a blessing to preach and hear preaching. The Holy Spirit worked in a wonderful way in the church. Brother John Alves shared with me that the Lord stirred many in the

church and they took to the street's soul winning and preaching. As a result, the deputy mayor of the city and her husband were saved, a former city councilman was saved and the city manager was born again. We thank our Lord for allowing us to be a part of this meeting.

After 2 ½ years of praying and waiting, we were finally able to dedicate the new office building to the Lord. So many doors have been opened to reach thousands of prisoners through daily preaching and a growing number that are signing up to study through the Prisoner's Bible Institute; the completion of the office was a great undertaking and we looked forward to the completion for a long time. After much prayer, we felt the need to borrow the money to complete the project and move on expanding the work. We believe we will exceed over 4,000 students by the end of the year and anticipate the number to increase much more in 2024. Please help us pray for the \$65,000 loan and for the daily operation needs of this great work.

HELP US PRAY

- The last three prison meetings I have been scheduled in (including Brazil) have been cancelled due to lock down situations. Please help me pray that I can get these re-scheduled.
- Several states require various classes and paperwork in order to have open access into the prisons. I am down to just getting my fingerprints done and I will have access to the prisons in Florida. I am praying for 3 different prisons in Florida. Please help me pray for these open doors.
- Bland Correctional Virginia-we have been approved for a week-long revival in November. Pray there are not issues and for hearts and lives to be changed by the word of God.
- Alabama Campaign-it is time again to make preparations. Please pray the institutions are lock down free.
- Pray for mine and Judy's health and the support to keep doing what we have been doing over 30 yrs.
- **God Bless and Thank You So Much for Praying and Supporting our Ministry!**

Your Missionaries,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford
Missionaries Ricky and Judy Dunsford

2 Corinthians 4:5

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.



July-August 2023 Titus/International

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2Ti 2:2

There are two statements in the above verse that expresses the purpose and goal of our Titus Partner Outreach. When the Lord laid this area of ministry on my heart over 32 years ago, I believed that our Biblical mandate to evangelize the world extended to teaching and training others to reach their indigenous people. The phrase ‘commit thou to faithful men’ implies a setting forth or to make a deposit. Paul is telling young Timothy just as I have made a deposit in your life, take what you received and make a deposit in the lives of others. The result will be those you have invested in will then go on to teach others and the investment will continue as long we stay committed to depositing what we have received into the lives of others.

Since the beginning of the Rock of Ages Foreign Outreach many that invested and are still faithful in their giving and praying. Along the way others have joined with us as partners to make a deposit in the lives of foreign nationals and missionaries. The result has been that hundreds of volunteers and several full-time workers and fulltime missionaries are partnering with us. Today we are able to help over 250 national workers with their area of ministry. Thank you for making an investment in the lives of faithful men that now faithful teach others resulting in thousands saved every year somewhere in the world.

FAITHFUL MEN YOU HAVE COMMITTED TOO

Mircea and Ronela Cristian are the first foreign family to be accepted as missionaries with the Rock of Ages. Romania was the first country the Rock of Ages would begin foreign work which required to help of interpreters. Brother Mircea was a faithful Christian and was willing to take off of his job as a civil engineer with the state-owned rail system. It wasn't long after seeing what the Lord was doing in the prisons and his country that Mircea approached Brother Dunsford and stated: “I believe the Lord wants me to be a full-time missionary with the Rock of Ages.” Brother Mircea had grown up in a communist country. Churches were limited as to what they could do and the idea of missions was a

foreign concept. Mircea asked, "would you teach me that I may teach my people?" We began to make deposits in the lives of this family. Now after 30 years through the vision and burden of Brother Mircea, the work in Romania operates out of a three-story office building, where daily grading and mailing of the Prisoner's Bible Institute; reaching into almost all the prisons in the country. Each month a group of lady prisoners are brought to office where they are taught and trained in various areas of how to be a faithful Christian lady. Over the past 30 years, Brother Mircea and his staff have trained hundreds of pastors and local church volunteers that continue to faithfully reach their local jails and prisons. For 40 years communist taught there was no God. It has now been 44 years since the Romania revolution and thanks to the faithful commitment of our partners thousands that once had no hope are now born again.

In August, we made a trip to Brazil to dedicate our new office complex and to honor several of our national Brazilian missionaries for their faithful service. Brother John Alves Rock of Ages Brazil Director, 21 years of service. Mauricio Arruda, 20 years as a chaplain in two prisons. Sister Daleth Araujo who served with her recent deceased husband for 20 years, she continues to work at the women prison. As the verse 32 of Hebrews 11 states, ‘And what shall I say more? For time would fail me to tell of ...’.

Thank you again for your faithful commitment to partner with us as we partner together with men and women around the world to reach the lost with the gospel of our Lord.

Please keep praying for the need to pay off the remaining \$65,000 loan off for the new office in Brazil.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Dr. Ricky Dunsford
Vice President Rock of Ages Ministry

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