



Dr. Ricky & Judy Dunsford  
POB 164 Century, FL 32535  
850/261-0480 [rickydunsford@gmail.com](mailto:rickydunsford@gmail.com)  
April-May 2023 Newsletter

*Acts 15:11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."*

Over my 37 years with the Rock of Ages, two years as a volunteer and 35 years as a missionary, I have been asked this question; "How many do you think really were saved; is it just jail house religion?" Of course, there is no real answer to such a question. As we all must confess, only two actually know the answer, the one who believes and the Lord Jesus. The apostle Paul states to the Pharisee crowd in Acts 15, the Gentiles are saved the same way as the Jew, not based on keeping the law but it through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We still believe at the Rock of Ages it is through the grace of our Lord that a person is drawn by conviction, led to repentance and saved through free gift of salvation. Praise the Lord for allowing Judy and me to partner these many years with so many of you that believe the grace of God is available to all men. Thank you again for your investment in our lives as we labor together reaching souls anywhere the gospel can be preached.

The past couple months have been some of the busiest we have had in over two years. Since the first of March we have been on the road 70 days. Praise the Lord, he has kept us safe and our vehicle running well.

The Lord has blessed us with several church meetings that were a great blessing. Judy and I enjoyed the great fellowship with God's people and I personally praise the Lord for the great liberty I had while preaching. Praise the Lord for the 122 we have seen saved already this year.

One of my great privileges serving as a staff member of the ministry is teaching in our bi-yearly missionary candidate school. It was a great joy to see three new families join the Rock of Ages. Thanks to all that have prayed with us that the Lord would send forth laborers.

The April Bland Correctional Spring Revival was a great blessing. We opened the first night of the service

letting the men share special prayer requests. Many of the requests were heart felt needs. By the last night of the revival, several men gave testimony how the Lord had answered those prayers that week. Praise the Lord for his mercy. Though much of our preaching was to help the men grow in the Lord, there were 7 men that came forward to be saved.

#### PRAYER:

While traveling I had a few days stay in the hospital. What acted like a heart issues turned out to be acute colitis. The blessing is that after wearing a heart monitor for 4 days and taking several heart related tests and passing a stress test, it appears with the exception of a life-long issue with my digestive system, I am in very good health. Another blessing was while in the hospital, I learned that I needed to take digestive enzymes the rest of my life. The gastrologist stated I should have been taking these for the last 40 years. Praise the Lord I can already feel my energy level going up.

Pray for the Rock of Ages 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. This year we will be at the Shenandoah Baptist Church in Cleveland, TN. Please come join us for this great week of preaching. The dates are July 30-August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

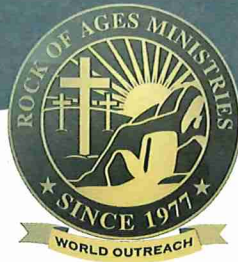
Pray for my trip to Brazil the end of August and for those traveling with us.

Judy and I are scheduled in several Fall Mission Conferences and Revivals. Pray the Lord will use the meetings to see lives saved, changed and surrendered.

Thanks again for your prayers and support.

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.



***“For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity”. Php 4:16***

While reading the above verse, I was drawn to the idea of how the Apostle Paul commends the Thessalonian believers for their faithfulness. The Apostle Paul is stating that the Thessalonian's were involved in the work. Every month, the work of our national missionaries and partners depend on our faithfulness to help meet the needs. Everyday around the world, a soul is saved (many more than one)! Thanks to your faithful support as a Titus Partner, we are able to meet the many needs. Many will for the first time in their lives hear a clear presentation of the gospel and hundreds will for the first time own a Bible. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

**From the Field:**

One of the goals of the foreign outreach of the Rock of Ages has been to work with well-established national Baptist pastors and their people to see the Lord raise up full time missionaries. Praise the Lord for our missionaries and national partners serving world-wide.

**Hungary**

Brother Zolts, reports the team was able to distribute 67,000 Ukrainian New Testaments and preach to several Ukrainian and Hungarians this past month. Help us pray as the Pastors are working to see when an opportunity to reach the prisoners will take place. The Lord continues to give favor with the officials in Hungary and we are one of few ministries preaching in the prisons. In addition, the door is opening to teach the Character Under Construction Curriculum in the public schools. Pray as we begin to work on preparing the lessons in the Hungarian Language.

**Papua New Guinea**

A recent trip to Papua New Guinea was made where the Rock of Ages was shared with several national pastors. As a result, several churches are partnering with us and this year already over 300 men have made professions of faith. The door is open to several institutions. Help us pray the Lord will raise up a full-time national missionary for this work.

**Ghana**

Through our national partners 38 prisons were recently reached. Fifty services were held in the institutions with a 3,346 in attendance and 227 made professions of faith. Brother Shelly will be meeting with two pastors, one in the Kumasi area and the other in Cape Coast. There are several open doors to the prisons and these brothers desire to partner with us to reach the prisons with the Gospel. Pray for the need of Bibles and material as the work continues to grow. In addition, the public-school work is exploding and praise the Lord many church members are volunteering to teach the character lessons.

**Middle East**

Brother Aymen was given 4 hours to hold an Easter service with 1200 in attendance. For a Muslim nation this is truly the hand of the Lord that makes this possible. Brother Aymen is allowed 40 hour of soul winning through the month. He also holds a midweek service with the family of the inmates. Praise the Lord that in a nation where Christianity is to many the death sentence, there was one profession of faith. Due to the nature of the work, we are limited to how much information we can share. We do ask you pray for this dear brother. He is a Rock of Ages missionary and is unable to raise support in his country. Please pray for his daily safety and the needs of his family.

In Christ's Service,

*Dr. Ricky Dunsford*  
Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Executive Vice President

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