



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

December 19, 2006

The On Target Ministry eNewsletter

Serving God through International Education

Dr. Jim Bearss, President

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2006 has been an exciting **First Year** in our **New Ministry**. “First Year’s” can be quite disheartening, especially in ministry, but by God’s grace and through the faithful prayers of God’s people, we have seen God strengthen us and establish us in this unique work built on the biblical **ministry model** found in His precious, all-sufficient Word:

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to **teach others also**. 2 Timothy 2:2

God has ordained the teaching of **faithful men** who will teach others also. This is **His plan** for the **propagation** of the Word of God throughout the world, and for the **preservation** of the Word of God from generation to generation. God knew how difficult it would be to accomplish this mission and successfully apply this model of ministry. That is why the very next verses provide this admonition:

You therefore must **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:3-4

“Enduring hardship” is not the “Plan A” most Americans pursue—“avoiding hardship” is more typical to our way of thinking and planning. So it comes as no surprise to me as I present our ministry in churches, that **many are amazed** when they hear about the **persecution** our Christian brethren overseas are willing to endure for the cause of Christ.

Paul reminds all of us that a life centered on Jesus Christ and lived in a godly fashion will always bring persecution. We live in a world that is not friendly to Jesus Christ, and those who show forth Christ will suffer for it.

And **all** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution**. 2 Timothy 3:12

Peter adds that we should not be surprised when living for Jesus brings persecution:

Beloved, **do not think it strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when **His glory** is revealed, you may also be **glad with exceeding joy**. 1 Peter 4:12-13

At this time of year our thoughts naturally focus on the Christ Child who was born in Bethlehem, and we rejoice that God sent His only begotten Son into the world to be our **fitting sin-bearing substitute on a cross**. Jesus truly came to save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) But let us not forget, as Peter reminded us, that someday Christ will come again, and this time it will be in power and glory. So let us live for Christ every day with genuine anticipation of His immanent return. And let us be faithful to Him, even if the result brings persecution. Then we may also **be glad with exceeding joy** at His coming.

Thank you all for signing up for this eNewsletter, and for faithfully upholding us in prayer for the work God has called us to. Here is how you can continue to minister in prayer for us:

Five BIG December Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for continued political stability in **Egypt** so our teaching mission can happen as planned.
2. Pray for our **house** to sell, and for wisdom on where to move when it does!
3. Pray for our **van** to keep running well. It has 210,000 miles on it, but it is running fine for now!
4. Pray for the churches we served to remember us in their **2007 Missionary Budgets**. *One pastor told me last week that his church will be voting in January whether to add us to their missionary budget.*
5. Pray for my **computer laptop** needs. My old laptop is in desperate need of upgrading to a new model.

Five BIG December Praise Notes:

1. New individual support continues to come in raising our **total financial support commitment** to **26%!!!**
2. **Faithful prayer support** from people like you who uphold us in prayer every day.
3. Our **current financial support team** includes regular giving from **20 individuals and 1 church**.
4. A full overseas ministry schedule for **2007**. We are now scheduling **2008**.
5. **Great grace** from our Great God and Savior who is sustaining us during this busy and demanding time of travel and ministry.

A Christmas Gift

Would you consider giving a **special year-end Christmas Gift** to **On Target Ministry** to help us carry on our work in training national pastors? The **expenses** in 2007 will be **very high** with our travel on deputation and my overseas teaching. Your special gift at this time of year would be a **great encouragement** and a **big help** in the work of **International Education**. A gift of **any size** would be greatly appreciated, and all gifts are tax deductible as charitable donations for income tax purposes. Please send your special gift to the **Support Address** below. **Thank you! And a special "Thank you" to you who already sent your special gift!!!**

Support Address: *On Target Ministry, 2455 Scenic Valley Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50265*
Thanks for reading our letter! And **thank you** for your love and support.

Striving to please an Audience of One!

Dr. Jim & Anna Betsy Bearss

My Speaking Schedule!

- In **2006** we will be...
 - Dec 24 – Preaching at First Baptist Church in Arlington Heights, IL
 - Dec 31 – Rice Lake Baptist in Rice Lake, WI
- In **2007** we will be...
 - Jan 07 – **Open for Florida...please contact me!!!**
 - Jan 14 – Faith Baptist Church in Adams, WI
 - Jan 21 – Faith Baptist Church in Adams, WI
 - Jan 28 – **Open for the Midwest...please contact me!!!**
 - Feb 4 – **Open for the Florida...please contact me!!!**
 - Feb 5 – on a Plane to Egypt!