



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

February 12, 2008

On Target Ministry

Serving God through International Education

DR. JIM BEARSS, PRESIDENT

Dear Support Team Members,

EGYPT! I will be returning to the land of the Pharaohs February 14th for two weeks of teaching national pastors. The course is **“Introduction to the New Testament”** and the students will learn the supernatural origins and spiritual content of the New Testament. The school is in Alexandria, (SEE MAP) and classes meet February 16 - 27.

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH IN PERSECUTION IS THE NEED

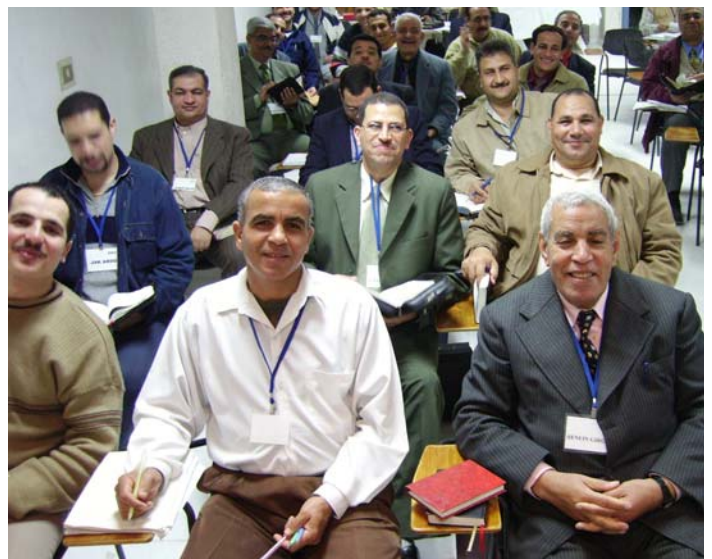
The national pastors in Egypt need your prayers. God is doing amazing work through these dedicated men. They certainly fit the model of the **“faithful men”** Paul told Timothy to teach in 2 Timothy 2:2. They endure much persecution for the cause of Christ. Pray for safety and for encouragement as they take their new-found knowledge of God’s Word and apply it in their church-planting ministries. The group I will be teaching (PICTURE) helped plant 101 new churches in Egypt since 2004. Praise God!

OUR BIG STEP OF FAITH (please read this!)

We have made a decision about our **ministry plan**. Instead of focusing on “support raising,” in 2008, **we will focus on overseas ministry**. Last year our **support level** doubled from 26% to 52%. We are praying—and asking you to pray with us—that God will double us again in 2008. We are so confident that God will do this that we have planned a **full schedule** of overseas ministry this year! We also plan to **travel overseas as a family**. We believe this will be good for both our family and our ministry.

God has promised to supply all our needs. We have diligently presented our ministry in many churches (22 in 2007!). Now, instead primarily visiting churches in the states, **we intend to do the work of teaching overseas full time**. We believe God will honor this commitment and bring in the additional support we need.

Already we see God’s hand at work! **Fellowship Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida** has joined our support team! Welcome aboard! This week, one new individual supporter started giving. Many current supporters have increased their 2008 giving commitment. We are now at 57% support! **You are a valuable member of our Support Team**. Your giving makes it possible for us to serve God in this **unique work**. And the fervent, effectual prayers of the righteous do much good! God tells us to call on Him and He will show us great and mighty things!



YOU CAN PRAY FOR AN IMPORTANT NEW PROJECT

\$4,000 is needed to fund a **major expansion** of our presence on the Internet. We have the opportunity to add several new features to our current website, including:

- **Online Giving**
- **Live Teaching Broadcasts**
- **Newsletter Archive**
- **Interactive Online Bible Lessons**
- **Daily Devotionals and Instant Updates**

Pray that God will meet this important need with a one time **special gift** to cover the cost of adding these features. The most significant benefit would be the ability to stay in **live contact** with my overseas students while I am stateside!

MORE WORLD-WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Jordan** – For the new school reaching the Middle East!
- **Egypt** – For strength for pastors under daily persecution!
- **Jamaica** – For students and pastors impacting this Island Nation for Christ!
- **\$100,000** gift to fund the **Haiti Bible Institute for Pastors** for 8 full years of study: over **200 students!**
- **New full time supporters** for On Target Ministry in 2008. **Goal: to be at 100% by year end!**
- **Full funding** for our 2008 overseas Ministry Trips so **Anna and James can travel together with me!**
- **Pray that God will send a buyer** for our Wisconsin home. God is not hindered by slow housing sales!



Our daughter Sharon (senior year, Art Institute of Illinois) sent a newly designed logo for On Target Ministry.



YOU ARE HELPING DOC TEACH PASTORS!

Sir Christopher Wren was the influential English architect who virtually built the city of London in the 18th century. His most famous achievement is St. Paul's Cathedral. One day Wren visited the site to see how work was progressing. During his inspection, he asked a stonemason what he was doing. "I'm cutting stone," was his simple reply. Then Wren asked a carpenter what he was doing. "I'm breaking my back for 5 shillings a day!" was his curt reply. Eventually, he came upon a janitor sweeping debris from the floor. Wren asked the man what he was doing. The man thought for a moment, a broad smile crossed his face, and he said,

"I am helping Sir Christopher Wren build St. Paul's Cathedral!" What a remarkable perspective! The man was not discouraged by what some might think a behind-the-scenes, mundane task. Instead he saw the Big Picture: he was part of something big that would outlive him.¹ Only in eternity will we know **the full value** of what we are doing for Christ today. Let us be diligent in our roles and **finish the work** God gave us to do!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and loving support,

Dr. Jim & Anna Betsy Bearss

God is good, therefore He is **always** being good to us. Even during times when we think things seem bad, God is being good to us! (For further study, Psalm 34:8, 100:5, 135:3, 145:9, Jer. 33:11, Lam. 3:25, Nahum 1:7, Job)

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We stand in the service of the sovereign God, whose purposes cannot fail, whose words do not fall to the ground, and whose people shall be saved.

¹ Story adapted from the *Grace To You* newsletter, December 20, 2007