



The Skinner Family Prayer Letter

Dear Family and Friends:

A physician has to learn how to recognize a disease from seemingly unrelated symptoms. For instance, I recently heard the dramatic story of a doctor who identified a rare bone disease simply by the color of a patient's eyes.

I began to think—without Christ, people are a little like that. They're like patients complaining about symptoms, unaware of the true disease. What they ask for help with doesn't always draw a straight line to Jesus. As a ministry, when we evangelize in our traditional fashion, with straightforward ads like "Jesus Christ Loves You," we get responses like "Who is Jesus?" "How can I be sure?" "What is sin?" and "I want to live a holy life."

But we are constantly looking for ways to reach people more broadly and less expensively; ways to "go viral." **Changing our initial approach also means reaching those less acutely aware of their desire for God.** They sense resulting problems, not the malady behind them. They just want help: "How can I have a better marriage?" "Please pray for my husband to ask God to help him." "I'm so sick and weak. Where is my way?" "God should help me pass my test." Please pray for us to get better at directing them to Christ in ways they understand.

I think life's tests are one of the primary ways God makes us understand our need for Jesus. For four weeks from June 18 to July 13, Mike attended Campus Crusade's Institute of Biblical Studies at Winter Park's Rollins College. Intense as it was, (558 pages of assigned reading, numerous in-class assignments, papers and a sermon), I believe the experience will be very helpful for my future ministry. It was like drinking from a fire hose, as a number of CCCI and seminary scholars showered us with practical insights and principled approaches from their decades of experience.

Practical ministry has always made me painfully aware of my own deficiencies. I have to see this as one way God has been preparing me to find common ground with those to whom I am communicating. My own need for Christ in numerous surprising ways helps me to better see theirs as well.

One of the most famous missionary appeals in all of Scripture is the "Macedonian Call." During his second missionary journey, Paul and his companions planned to go to Asia, then Mysia and Bithynia, but were forbidden by the Holy Spirit. Instead, Paul had a vision that night in which a man begged them, "Come over into Macedonia and help us."

The Macedonian Call has come to symbolize a dramatic call to evangelism, like the Great Commission. But I think if we can look at it with fresh eyes, it wouldn't sound so different from the daily appeals made on the GMO Facebook page, the GodLife Prayer wall or our Live Chat ministry. They say, "please come help us!" in various ways. We must learn to hear, "I desperately need Jesus in my life."

Love, in Christ

Mike & Cindy

"One day closer!" (Romans 13:11)

Latest Statistics

Believe it or not, 2012 is half-over!

I wanted to catch you up on some things that have been going on in our ministry.

GMO 2012 results to date:

- 11,697,727 Indicated Decisions for Christ
- 1,469,596 e-mails
- >9,000 Online Missionaries worldwide
- Social Media
 - 893,925 total "likes"
- >80,000 posts on Prayer Wall

Prayer Requests

One of our newest projects in development is the **Church Finder Database**. In the past, we have borrowed databases from other organizations, but we have seen the need to develop our own and allow our volunteers to enter and associate themselves with their own churches so that visitors seeking churches have a better chance of finding them locally.



Since March, **Mike has been serving over 300 Online Missionaries in Africa.** Some of these English-Speaking volunteers come from Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. **Please pray for my friend Rauta**, who lives in an area of North Central Nigeria that is threatened by aggressive Muslim activity!

Please also pray for our chat ministry. If you have been following our prayer letter for long, you've heard stories from Mike's involvement in this exciting outreach. I'm pleased to announce that we have begun to broaden it. Earlier this month, we started inviting more volunteers to join him and well over 100 have now expressed interest!



Nigerian Online Missionary R.



English Africa Community Guardian Miheret visits GMO Orlando HQ from Ethiopia



Emily in local children's theater performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella"



Emily with school friends after the play



Luke and church friend Jayden



Emily crocheted a red snake and bought a red cowboy hat for friend Josiah at his 2nd birthday party