

Dear Friends,

First of all, let me say thank you very much for your monetary and prayer support for the missions trip to the Middle East. I was blessed to travel with a wonderful team of young college-age disciples from Lightbearers Ministries to support dear friends, "B & Z," who work in the country. These friends attended my home church—while in the US and were sent as ministry partners with New Heights several years ago. They founded a center to promote unity in the body of Christ and to share the Gospel with the lost of their region. They are currently working to open a school to teach local adults English using the Bible as their text and a thrift store to financially support their ministry. The long-term goal of the center is to open a Christian school.



Lightbearers team with our overseas partners

One of the most unexpected blessings of the trip came even before we left the US. As our team moved from our arrival gate to our departure gate, we ran into a team from Clemson University waiting to depart for a missions trip to Kenya. God's heart for missions is drawing young men and women from across America. Imagine college students giving up Christmas break and often spring break, too, to share the Gospel across the globe. I know there was no such movement when I was that age, but there is now. Praise God!



Family Jeremy and I shared the gospel with in a mountain village

The Lightbearers team consisted of twins Jeremy and Brett Arent, who recently graduated from the University of Arkansas; Anna Grace Campbell, Randi Villines, Rachel McMillan, Samantha Moore, Becca Smith, and Brianne Alyse, six young ladies who live together in a Lightbearers home in Springfield, MO; and Lightbearers staff member Lauren Minor. Five of the ladies attend Missouri State. I was graciously allowed to tag along since I am on the board of directors of the center and know the partners very well.

Highlights of the trip included working with a children's ministry outreach from the church with a dynamic young couple, "A & E;" serving the very poor and needy meals; providing groceries and necessities to needy families; witnessing door-to-door in a remote mountain village with a sister church and members of B's church; visiting an orphanage, and doing door-to-door evangelism with a missionary who pastors B's church and has been in the country with his family for about 15 years. We saw New Testament ministry in its purest and most potent form, practiced by people who have very little but who consider themselves blessed by Christ to be a blessing to others (2 Cor. 9:11).



At the orphanage

For details on two extraordinary days, go to my blog on the ministry's website: <http://www.lightbearersconnects.com/blog/2011/jan/7/learning-european-believers/>. Also, I posted more than 40 pictures from the trip on my Facebook page.

Finally, Jeremy, Brett and I stayed with a wonderful family. "L, S & O" are nominal Muslims as are most in the country. S, the son, and O, the daughter, could speak English fairly well. L, the dad, spoke only the local language. Their hospitality was incredible. O, who is 16, prepared two incredible dinners for all of us. We spent our final day in the country with L and S in the village where L grew up and on their family farm. We were able to share the Gospel with them at dinner one night and pray with L and S just before we left to come home. We're sending gifts for them to B so he and Z will have another opportunity to spend time with them when they deliver them. Plus, we're all still connected online.

Again, thanks for your financial and spiritual support that helped make this trip possible.

Blessings!



Becca praying for a needy family with a dear brother. That's Brett in the background.

April 6, 2010

Ken & Pam,

Thank you so much for the prayer and financial support that you offered on our behalf as we traveled to the Northeast during Spring Break.



God used this trip in a powerful way to confirm that church-planting is something that UBC needs to do. Although there will be another team going to the West Coast in a few months to do survey work there, and we won't know where UBC will plant a church yet, we do know that there is a significant need in New England for Gospel-centered churches.

New England is 1.6 percent evangelical, a number that is staggering when you realize that even an unreached country like China is 6 percent evangelical. This area that once was the site of the Great Awakenings is now labeled as spiritually dead by many who live there. This task matters!

The Lord continues to work in our hearts as we seek what part He would have us play in this endeavor, and we are grateful for the ways He used this trip to provide points of clarity in that.

We appreciate so much your love and encouragement as we seek to follow the Lord as a church and as a couple. You are definitely a blessing to us!

for His renown,

If you haven't read it yet, go to <http://iamreadytosayyes.blogspot.com> for a detailed recap of the trip.

Dear Friend,

I am writing to you because God has recently opened a door for me to go overseas. In May of 2011, I will be traveling to Southeast Asia with Lightbearers Ministries. Lightbearers use profits from my rent to fund mission projects in the 10/40 Window. Check out www.lightbearersconnects.com for more information about their projects. The only way I can get to Asia is with your support, prayerfully and financially.

I will be traveling with a team of about twelve. One of the visions for this trip is that we gain an understanding of unreached people groups. Unreached people groups are anyone that has not had the opportunity to ever hear about the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not that they have not chosen to believe in Jesus Christ, but they have not had the option. Another vision is that these people will see Christ's love through us as His laborers. As we work with these people, we will offer access to the message and tangible demonstration of the beauty of God. As this is my first time going overseas, I am very excited and very nervous. I have never been out of the United States and I am praying that God will open my heart for the nations and His people.

A large part of this trip includes learning how to raise support. For this trip, I will be raising about \$3,000. Suggested gift amounts are \$50, \$100, and \$150, but any and all gifts are welcome and appreciated. I am asking my friends and family to join me in this trip by giving these gifts. Please include any gift in the provided envelope. In order for the donation to be tax-deductible, checks must be made out to Lightbearers. Please don't write my name anywhere on the donation. Even though the trip is several months away, we've started raising support so we can buy plane tickets well before last minute.

I have seven months until the departure of this trip and I ask that during this time you will be praying for me, the team, and the people of Southeast Asia.

November: "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4

December: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" Isaiah 52:7

January: "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" Isaiah 6:8

February: "For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts." Malachi 1:11

March: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands." Revelation 7:9

April: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14

May: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

With love in Christ,