Missionary Ministry Report to the Woodside Missions Focus Group (1997)

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Missionary Ministry Report

Note: This report survives only as a faded scan, and some lines of it could not be read. Each place where words were lost is marked […]. The part of the report that listed personal finances has been left out.

Missionary Ministry Report from Ken & Mary Lou Engle

February 18, 1997

Dear Woodside Missions Focus Group,

Thank you for your recent letter. We are going to begin by answering question 8 of Part 2. It is the question as to our understanding of Scriptural principles as to giving and receiving financial support. We plan to quote the whole question here since we begin with it. Since that question to us seems basic to the whole matter of support, we feel we must begin with that.

[…]

… what you see as legitimate for those needs to be met.

Thank you for this question. As you well know, there are many ideas out there as to what is right in this area. First, what do we see in the Scriptures. It seems clear, that Paul and other writers in the New Testament did not appeal for themselves. It is possible that Paul had a part in telling the believers at Antioch of the needs of the Christians in Judea. Then Barnabas and Paul delivered the needed help. (Acts 11:26-30) We do not feel there is evidence that he or other servants of the Lord made appeals for themselves. We remember the Lord Jesus when tax time came. Peter had been questioned by those collecting taxes whether his Master

paid tribute. Peter said, "Yes." When Peter came to the Lord Jesus, the Lord asked him about the taxing of that time. It would seem it was rather selective. But in order not to offend the officials the Lord asked Peter to go and catch a fish and there would be in the mouth of the fish the needed amount for the Lord Jesus and Peter. (Matthew 17:24-27) I would make this comment and I am not trying to be funny. The Lord did not the next time He fed 5000 take up an offering for their taxes and needs. You are well aware that missionaries from many groups must get so much promised support on deputation. We are very much aware of this as many missionaries around us worked under those plans. Sometimes the money did not get promised or they got to the field and those promising were not able to send the promised amount. The "Faith Promise" system seems to be some improvement on this.

Here has been our experience in all of this and we do not say for one moment that everyone has to do it this way. I first attended Austin Gospel Hall in 1942-43. Then I went into the Army Air Corps. (1943-45) Among other places I served in the Philippines. I returned to Moody and Austin in the fall of 1946. I will never forget the welcome I received. Later I taught a Sunday School class of high school boys. I helped with developing a Christian Service Brigade with Chuck Christensen and Jack Barclay. Later we worked together on Adventure Time an outreach to boys and girls. I was commended to the work in the Philippines in 1950. I had met Mary Lou at Austin. She completed her nurses training at West Suburban Hospital in 1952 and was commended to the Philippines in that year. We were married in 1953 in …

[…]

… farewell was held at the Hall on Leamington. The elders placed their hands on my head and shoulders as an expression of their support. They did not ask me the price of the ticket to the Philippines by freighter or about my needs. They did give me …

[…]

… trusting the Lord for support etc. But I understood some of it from my four years …

[…]

On the freighter from San Francisco to Manila I read the Bible, George Muller, Hudson Taylor and C. H. Mackintosh. George Muller cared for orphans and felt it better to tell the Lord his needs rather than to man. The Lord sent in enough for the orphans and more so that he could help Hudson Taylor. (China Inland Mission) This is now the O.M.F. (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) I understand that OMF even today does not make financial appeals etc.

Communicating Needs

We appreciate the way you asked this question as to communicating needs and …

[…]

In the early days we did not hear from either of these assemblies …

[…]

I was going to quote this from my journal later but think I will include it right here since … This is a journal quote from January 27, 1967:

[…]

"… we are living in the Manila area." "Near … bridge (I was hit by a truck) Driver went along to Paco with me … (paragraph) At …

[…]

… time the Lord has used a different … (July 1966, October 1966 and January 1967.) Praise Him!" I just came across this in my journal and had forgotten the details.

[…]

… just sending out what comes in the offering. There is no debt to the home assembly. … We all experience times when …

[…]

For us this is the only way we would like to operate.

Part 1. Ministry Report

Please tell us about our ministry efforts and your investments in … with you.

Grace & Truth Gospel Chapel

This is a real Chapel about ten miles south of Abilene with wheat fields on all sides. The work began around 1918. I grew up on a farm about 4 miles from there. There are 23 people attending including children. (6) We have two young couples and one is expecting so in April that should bring our numbers to 24, the Lord willing. Besides Sunday services, I try to go to the Chapel to work 1 or 2 times a week.

[…]

… can record and copy tapes both places. Workers Together in Wheaton has provided all three of my professional Ampex reel to reel recorders. (1970's and 1988) I visit some in the neighborhood. Sometimes people stop by and visit when they see my car there. Part of the year we clean the Chapel and also set up the Lord's …

[…]

… felt I was getting older and that we had five qualified elders and there was no …

[…]

I suppose we spend 25% of our time in the Chapel related work.

Radio

I began in radio at WMBI in 1946 when I returned from the war. I was an announcer there for 4 years. Then in the Philippines we did radio work offering the Emmaus Correspondence courses over the Far East Broadcasting Co. stations in the Manila area. (Bible School of the Air) Later when we moved to Baguio, in the mountains, I developed two programs of my own for commercial stations there. I had broadcasts in the Philippines going out most of the years from 1951 to say 1991 or 40 years. The Children's Bible Hour of Grand Rapids, Michigan is still going out. We introduced that program and handled the mail for them for years. They just sent us the packet of mail for 1996. Here in Abilene we have one fifteen minute program over KABI, a commercial station. We have been on the air here most of the years since 1970. The program we release here is the Emmaus Bible Hour which we produce at the request of the Emmaus Bible College. The Salina Chapel also sponsors the Emmaus Bible Hour on a Christian FM station there. They also sponsor a one minute spot called A Moment To Remember From The Bible on that same FM station. This program was also on DZFE, a FM fine music station in Manila for a number of years. I correspond with others who use or have used the broadcasts. In recent days I wrote to a broadcaster in Fall River, MA. He has used the Emmaus series 2 or 3 times there. Also, I wrote to a broadcaster in Alabama recently that has used most of the series once. Then I should mention Mary Lou's series of tapes that I have used on the broadcasts. She has made three cassettes based on Hymns of Worship and Remembrance. Our son and his wife in Oklahoma handle most of the sending out of tapes from there. We

basically just record the master tapes here. We have just learned that they have sent out well over 3000 cassettes. Our son does it as a ministry and does not seek to make very much profit. I would estimate that 35% of our time is taken up with radio and recording work.

Correspondence

We grade Emmaus courses here at home and correspond with believers in the Philippines. We also get outdated Sunday School materials from Scripture Press, Wheaton. We send these materials to four Chapels in the Philippines. There is an overlapping in some of this as you can understand with the Emmaus courses. We have done a small work with the local jail and correspondence courses. I would suppose we spend 20% of our time with correspondence. (USA & Philippines)

Community

When we returned to live in Abilene in 1975 I took a course here offered by Kansas State University on Educational TV. It was taught at the local Library. When it was over a number of us were offered a channel by the local cable company. It was called Public Access TV. We had Channel 8. We were able to develop children's programs, oral history, informational programming for the community and weekly Bible Study programs. I continued in this work for about ten years on a voluntary basis. Mary Lou volunteers at the Library and has just completed a major project. She also is a volunteer at the Historical Society. She teaches piano in our home. Mary Lou is a registered nurse. She has done some nursing since we have lived here and has kept up her

credentials. She has had a ministry with the piano teachers and nurses of the area. I have served as a volunteer chaplain in the local hospital. I retired from that in 1994. We also go to the nursing homes here on a regular schedule with other ministers. I would say we spend 20% of our time in this community work.

Encouragements

[…]

We hear regularly from one of the men that was …

[…]

In this section I will mention a Methodist lady who phones …

[…]

… that was in our original Christian Service Brigade …

Rudy became the first Herald of Christ outside of North America in the early days of …

[…]

We were 15 years in the Manila area and then about 10 years in the Baguio City work. We have just heard from Robert Padilla, a Sunday School boy of those days who says …

[…]

… now missionaries in Ifugao. It is higher up in the mountains than Baguio and rather …

[…]

… Brigade work there and they are now graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

[…]

… going to Harvard and being … Stott to come to Harvard for … he is headmaster and chaplain … at Austin.

Then in closing … phones every Sunday to tell us how …

[…]

… for one of their Bible studies. We thank the Lord for … the radio program. … We thank the Lord for the encouragements He has given us.

3. Challenges in the Days Ahead

… right now in the radio work is a series of 36 broadcasts on the Gospel of Mark. It is a series I have never used on the air here …

[…]

Well, we could go on and we …

4. Fellow Workers

[…]

… teaching a lesson last Sunday told of how hard it was on his family when his mother died and he was 5 years old. He expressed thanks to the support of the believers at …

[…]

One of them as I recall had been reached at Kansas University by Paul Little. … number of years they met with us in this rural area. It just about filled our …

[…]

Pray for the Salina work. … developing well. A man grew up in the …

[…]

Part 2. Financial Support

… the answer on page one states what we feel Scripture teaches. … I guess our stand is "What He orders He pays for."