



September 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends:

It has been over 5 months since my last Newsletter, and I am excited to share an update on the progress of our Ministry, as well as a "specific" God moment and subsequent learning I have experienced since then.

First, I want to sincerely thank those who are currently partnering with me through financial and/or prayer support, helping to move me towards my dream of becoming a full-time missionary. It continues to encourage and bless me when someone feels led to join me in this mission to "*take care of widows and orphans in their distress*" (James 1:27). I can not thank you enough for "your generosity and commitment."

Ministry Developments since April

Earlier this spring, we experienced the death of Velma Achieng, a seven year old girl in our Child Sponsorship Program, based in Kisumu, Kenya. Velma died as a result of sickness. Sadly, the possibility of more deaths among the children in our program is anticipated. It is the reality they live with every day, and it serves to remind us why we at Father's Heart Projects are doing what we are doing. We must continue to help as many children as we can, to give them a HOPE for the future.

On a more positive note, we are excited to report that we are close to completing our new school located just outside of Kisumu, Kenya. Once completed, it will contain 7-classrooms, employing 14 teachers, and upwards of 280 students. The compound will also include an office, kitchen/dining room, playground, security station and washrooms.

We also purchased the land beside the school which will allow us to grow food for the students and the other children in our programs. This \$150,000 School Project is requiring another \$30,000 to enable us to finish construction and another \$30,000 to supply the contents of the school.

We still have children and widows available for monthly sponsorship. Please consider "adopting" one of these precious people, and become directly involved in their future.

We are so thankful for our National Partners, Pastors Jasper and Tobias and their team for doing what they do, to enable FHP to have a "positive" impact with their people.

The "God moment"

Around the end of July, I was enjoying an evening backyard fire by myself, when my mind drifted off to thinking about the times I enjoyed with some Ironmen from CSC out at Ribbon Creek on some of our "Escape" weekends. I have fond memories of those times standing around the open pit fire, looking up at the incredible display of stars and listening to all the chatting.

It was while thinking back to those times that I felt "that still small voice" say to me, *"You need to send out another Ministry Update e-mail."*

My first thought in response was, "Ok, what do you want me to say?"

Within 15 seconds, my mind went to the story of Moses holding up his arms while Joshua and the Israelites were fighting a battle against the Amalekites (Exodus 17). You remember that while Moses had his arms raised, Joshua would be winning the battle, and when Moses got tired and lowered his arms, the enemy would have success.

I figured what God was bringing to my attention was the fact that Moses, the one who had a "God inspired" task to perform, was having a difficult time being effective on his own. He needed his brother Aaron and some fellow by the name of Hur "to hold up" his arms when he got tired, thereby placing all three in a position where "together" they could be used of God for a specific purpose.

It was obvious to me that God was illustrating the value of a "team."

I was beginning to see the type of message I felt He wanted me to share with you.

Since my "backyard encounter," I have been praying and meditating about this story of Moses, and asking God to reveal to me all He wanted me to get out of this story.

I will share those thoughts here.

The "subsequent learning"

Initially, I thought there were only two people who were important in this story (Moses and Aaron). I soon realized there was more to the story than I first thought. In this story, there are four people mentioned by name, and two groups. The first, and obvious person mentioned is Moses, who I see as the "one called for a specific mission." He had a "God directed" task to perform and that was to keep his arms raised so that Joshua and his army would be successful.

There are also the two "men/brothers" who stood by Moses' side, and witnessed first hand what happened when Moses got too tired to keep his arms raised.

They were willing to get involved and jumped in and helped in an appropriate manner.

It was obvious to me that this "team" serving with Moses played a very significant role in God's strategy for Joshua and the Israelites. Without them helping Moses, the ending to the story might have been quite different than it was.

The fourth person mentioned was Joshua. He was on the front lines, heavily involved in battle with the first group mentioned; the Israelite army (his team), waging war against the second group in this story, the Amalekites (the enemy).

As I have been going over this story in my mind, I can't help but see the similarity between these players and what I would refer to today as a "**missional team.**"

Here's what I mean.

In this story, Moses could represent a "typical" missionary.

Like Moses, I feel God has a specific purpose for me at this stage in my life, and if you have been reading my Newsletters, you would know that I am believing God will allow and enable me to use my skills, abilities and passions to "*reach out to the least of these,*" in a full-time capacity. Not that He needs to use me, but I believe when He sees someone who is willing, He will honor their desires.

You would expect that every missionary truly wants to honor God by serving as He has called them to. The reality for me and missionaries in general, is we desperately need a "team" behind us to enable us to fulfill that desire.

My perception of what these "two" people with Moses (Aaron & Hur) could represent for today's missionary, are the two most important elements (besides God of course) that EVERY missionary needs, in order to serve as God requires them to.

1) Financial Partners and

2) Prayer Partners

We (missionaries) need a committed team behind us, or we will not be effective in the mission we are committing to. It's really as simple and critical as that.

When I was serving as the Pastor of International Ministries at CSC, I would include a letter from myself in a package that was sent from every short-term and long-term missionary candidate to their "potential" ministry partners.

I included a line that said, "*Your financial gifts will get them to the field and keep them there, and your prayers will help them serve well.*"

This statement is true for me today, as well.

Getting back to the story and how I believe it lines up well with today's Missional team...

I see Joshua as the man serving on the front-line. He's in the trenches, working with "his team" (the Israelite army). Joshua represents every National Partner that a missionary works with. This "Joshua" is right there with his local team, engaged in battle against his enemies, which usually are many. They generally are of the demonic realm, and manifest themselves through poverty, disease, hunger, war, corruption and the like.

In conclusion, the missionaries (Moses) role, be it on the field working side by side with the National Partner, or here at home, is to serve that man/woman (Joshua) as best they can to help THEM do what God has called them to do in their home country. And again, the missionary can never be as effective, as God requires, unless they too have a committed team behind them.

I am encouraged that the Lord would direct me to this story and help me to see how it fits with my journey and what I am working through at this time.

I also hope this story has helped you to understand how vital "a team" is for those who have determined that their calling is to serve God in a full-time capacity, as a "supported" missionary, and to perhaps better understand how valuable someone like you can be in fulfilling God's plan through a partnership with a missionary.



I thought I should also mention that while I was driving my bus and thinking about this story, I believe the Lord brought to my mind that the FHP logo has a big heart, with "two arms lifted up." Interesting, I thought, and encouraging to me, at the same time.

My "missionary" role with FHP

As a reminder, my role is to help our Founder and President, Paul Miles and our Board, develop this ministry. Specifically, I serve as the Administrator and Treasurer, which involves many different elements. In a nutshell, I am responsible for the marketing, which includes our website and all of our communication pieces. I have created the Systems and Procedures we utilize to handle the Projects we are involved in, and am responsible for keeping track of all donations, donors, and other financial matters.

I will continue to serve in a part-time capacity, knowing that when my full support materializes, I will then have the freedom and flexibility to go to our Partner countries (at the present time - Kenya) and spend extended periods working with and serving our National partners, the "front-line" people.

This has, and will continue to be a "huge step of faith" for me and my family.

My invitation to you

I believe with all my heart that God is good with me pursuing a life of full-time ministry. I know the leadership of CSC is as well.

As fully devoted followers of Christ, you and I know God is looking for men and women who are willing to forgo today's "norm" and get radical... or at least, be obedient to do as He asks, when He calls, even if we don't have all the "specifics" answered before we say "yes."

That is what I am trying to do.

Friends, I am asking you to prayerfully consider becoming an Aaron or a Hur, or both to me, as I seek to minister to "the least of these" as a CSC Missionary with Father's Heart Projects.

Would you be willing to "hold up my arms," and together as a team, try to make a difference in this world for Christ?

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this update. I sincerely hope you will pray about what God would have you do with this new information.

For "the least of these,"
John Naud

If you feel "led" to get involved, here's how to make that happen:

- To contribute to my **Financial Ministry Support**, there are options available on the Donation page of our website, www.fathersheartprojects.org. If becoming a **Prayer Partner** is your desire, please let me know by sending me an email to john.naud@fathersheartprojects.org. I would be most grateful.
- Financial Partners will receive a charitable donation receipt once per year.

FHP Foundational Scripture -

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress ..."

Endorsement from Dr. Henry Schorr, Lead Pastor, Centre Street Church

"One of the great thrills of my life is seeing people of all ages step out of the bleachers and in faith carry out the assignment God gives them. John Naud has felt led to serve our Lord full-time as a missionary. After going through a period of interviews, careful screening and experiences, he has received the blessing of the Mission's ministry of our church. I, therefore, invite you to join us in praying for and investing financially in his support. I am confident that your involvement with us in John's life and ministry will result in many lives being impacted for eternity."