

Front Line Ministries

8762 Quarters Lake Road, Suite 1
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225/922-9177 * flm@iol27.com

FLM

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SERVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MINISTRY

From Bill

During the early stages of development of Front Line Ministries, one of our board members and I were brainstorming regarding the needs of missionaries.

This board member raised the question: "What does it take to support our U.S. military in action?"

The point this board member was trying to get me to see is that God has an army also. God's army goes to the world to fight the battle, protected by armor.

The apostle Paul speaks directly to God's armor in the book of Ephesians 6:10-18.

What is clear to FLM is that God's army of missionaries, bringing salvation to the world through Jesus Christ, is in just as much

need of support as those serving in the U.S. military.

Too often we as Americans see those called to missions as more spiritual than us and therefore without need of our moral support.

We obviously pray for them and may even financially support them, but beyond that, is there really anything we can do to help them flourish in the difficult ministry God has called them to?

Jesus addresses the needs of the needy in Matthew 25:35-40:

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me."

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did

we see you hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"

The "Did You Know?" and "Our Response" boxes speak to the needs of the missionary army and how FLM is meeting these needs.

Thank you for partnering with Front Line Ministries to care for the needs of the army of the living God. We know that God will bear much fruit for His kingdom through a well-supported army. flm

Bill Wakefield

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

The Sound of a Heart's Desire

Modern musical recordings are often done by using levels of sound known as tracks. One track may contain the voice of the lead vocalist singing the

melody. The next track may contain the instrumental performances. A third track records the background singers providing the harmony. There is a beauty in each of the

tracks but it is only when all three are combined that the full impact of the music is experienced.

I believe God often records
(Continued on page 2)

Did You Know?

- A recent study indicated that, 47% of missionaries leave the field during the first five years. Of that number 71% of them do so for preventable reasons.
- It is estimated that 1 career missionary in 20 leaves the mission field every year. Of those who leave, 71% leave for preventable reasons.
- If the international, long term missionary force is estimated at 150,000 (a very conservative number) 7,650 missionaries leave the field each year. Over a four year term, this figure jumps to 30,600. Over 21,000 of these losses are preventable.
- In one study 49.2% of the attrition cases were caused by relationship problems.
- The top five causes of preventable attrition involve issues of character and relationships.

These statistics are taken from "Too Valuable to Lose - Exploring the Causes and Cures for Missionary Attrition".

Heart's Desire (Continued from page 1)

the symphonies of our lives in a similar way. Different experiences and ministry opportunities allow for the laying down of unique skills, passions, and insight. Each is profitable and used by God to further His purposes.

However, later in life God often chooses to combine the different tracks. He does this by providing a ministry opportunity that utilizes the diversity of the past in ways that demonstrate the fullness of His purpose in an individual's life.

Bill asked me to write about my love and passion for missions and the source of my desire to be involved with FLM. Like the musical recording, God has laid down different tracks in my life that are combined in this work.

The first track was laid down from the time of my childhood. The church I attended had a strong emphasis upon missions. That exposure provided a

Our Response

- Team training in people differences, team building, and conflict management which will enhance the ministry team's vision and level of effectiveness.
- Providing spiritual renewal and refreshment through seminars and retreats.
- Provision of personal confidential counseling through the use of e-mail.
- Preventative training seminars to help missions staff learn skills for enhancing ministry and personal relationships.
- Informational seminars assisting missionaries in strengthening their marriages and families.
- Development of a pre-field candidate orientation program which will provide skills for building a proper ministry foundation.

love and respect for those who were called to cross-cultural settings. Though I seriously considered missionary work, the Father's call would be in another direction.

After Bible college and seminary, it was clear that God's calling was towards a ministry of counseling. God blessed that ministry, allowing for the growth of a multi-staffed counseling center. During that time, my love for missions was not diminished.

Several of those I counseled were missionaries on furlough or home assignment. Through them, God increased my desire to find a way to provided support and encouragement for missionaries both at home and on the field.

My wife Cindy and I often discussed how such a ministry could be established. But again God would lead in a different direction.

The third track was laid down as a result of God's call to the pastorate. A love for preaching, a high regard for the work of the local church, and the desire to be used of God to impact peoples lives at a significant level were combined.

Local church ministry also provides opportunity to impact the work of missionaries. God used the passion of my heart for missions to develop a growing and expanding missions program and opportunities to be involved in short term mission trips.

Finally, God in His sovereignty combined each of these tracks in the call to Front Line Ministries. In my first conversation with Bill about FLM, it was clear that God was providing me with the desire of my heart. Here was an opportunity to encourage and strengthen missionaries through seminars, retreats, and on-field visits.

God was bringing together my experience and education in communication and counseling in a way that would allow me to be involved with the work of God worldwide. But even as my heart rejoiced at the

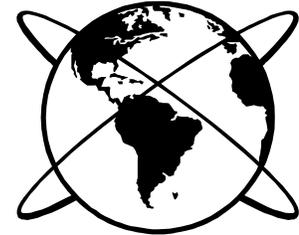
Prayer & Praise

Praise God with Us

- ◆ Development of a pre-field candidate orientation program which will utilized initially by 2 different missions organizations.
- ◆ God's provision for FLM to serve missionaries in the field.

Please Pray with Us

- ◆ FLM's travel schedule for 2003: for God's guidance regarding which missions organizations He would have serve through field visits.
- ◆ God's provision for Keith Boyer as he invites others to partner with him through FLM.
- ◆ God's continued guidance and provision for the work of FLM's ministry to God's soldiers on the front lines of battle.



opportunity, I was aware that God was not leading me to leave local church ministry. When Bill made it clear that FLM expected me to remain in my present ministry, my heart rejoiced anew.

On the drive home, with tears of joy, I shared the opportunity with my wife. We prayed seeking God's direction and believe that the opportunity to work with FLM is both God's leading and the fulfillment of a dream.

I want to thank all of you who support this ministry with your prayers and your finances. Thank you for providing the means for all of us at FLM to minister and support those who are the frontline troops in this worldwide spiritual battle. *flm*

Keith Boyer