

Front Line Ministries

FLM

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SERVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MINISTRY

From Bill

Front Line Ministries was invited to Beatenberg, Switzerland (April 19-25) in connection with the Association of Christian Schools International to speak to a large group of missions school headmasters and administrators on the topic of *Maintaining Healthy Marriages and Relationships in Ministry*. School administrative teams attended from **eleven countries**: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Russia and Ukraine.

Joyce ministered to the administrators' spouses. Her topic was *Fill My Cup*. This was our first opportunity for Joyce to travel with me to minister. This was truly a special blessing. The large number of schools and countries served by these missionary educators is allowing the gospel of Jesus Christ to be spread in every country in Western Europe, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The global impact of these Christian educators is impressive. Our challenge was to help refresh, renew and equip these leaders for continued enthusiastic leadership of their missionary schools.

Thank you as faithful partners with Front Line Ministries. You are the backbone of this ministry. Your prayers are felt daily and your gifts are being used around the world to strengthen Christian missionaries in their call to reach a lost and dying world with the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. *flm*

Bill Wakefield

Future Invitations

As a result of serving at this ACSI conference, invitations have already been received to minister in:

- ◆ Vienna, Austria (Bill—Vienna Christian School staff conference, September 2005).
- ◆ Moscow, Russia (Joyce—Joint ministries' women's conference, October 2005).
- ◆ Almaty, Kazakhstan (Bill—Tien Shan Educational Center staff conference, March 2005).

Please pray with us for God's direction in these invitations. *flm*

Fill My Cup

Switzerland is now a sweet memory. We arrived on Wednesday and the ACSI administrators conference started on Thursday. Bill spoke to the whole group (about 50) on Thurs., Fri. and Sat. evenings for about 1 1/2 hours each. He did a great job...He has a great sense of humor and an ability to engage the audience and interact with them.

I met with the spouses of the school administrators on Fri. and Sat. mornings, 3 hours each day! The theme of our time together was *Fill My Cup*. We had 11 women and one man in our group; we had a great time interacting about people differences (using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) and marriage and encouraging each other from their own insights and experiences.

The biggest blessing was getting to know and encourage the individuals and couples, during the sessions and at mealtime (we ate all our meals at the Guesthouse of the Beatenburg Bible School where the conference was held) and spending time together in the afternoons.

What struck me anew was that all of these people at the conference are called to serve as missionaries to missionary children (and their families) who attend these schools. And that *going to* the mission field is hard. (They each have their "amusing" stories about adjustments to life in foreign cultures.) And then they have to convince their supporters that what they do really is "legitimate" ministry...and that they are legitimate missionaries! It was a privilege to get to serve and encourage these missionaries in their commitment to their work and relationships.

Preparing for and then going on this ministry trip required a significant amount of energy, time and expenses AND spiritual warfare—just to minister for a brief time to those on the "front lines". And this pales in comparison to the incredible amount of energy, funds and sacrifice that full-time missionaries expend and experience to go to the mission field!

The girls did well with their college-age babysitter. They had a busy week while we were gone, and Sara planned a little surprise party for Maggie on her birthday! But they were ready to get our family and home "back".

THANK YOU for praying on behalf of us and our family! It was a privilege to serve and encourage these missionaries in their work and relationships. And thank you for helping provide this

Notes of Appreciation...

Bill and Joyce, thank you for sharing with us. Some of my favorite things have been: having my husband and I hear together (with Bill) the basic needs of men (significance) and women (security) and being able to discuss that further with him; the open sharing/ laughter/ acceptance of my time with Joyce in the spouses' sessions; and just enjoying your "realness" in all settings throughout the weekend. There are many people who are not genuine in their approach to people. In my opinion, speakers who are genuine and approachable are much more effective. So THANK YOU!

I was thrilled to have marriage staff included... EXTREMELY helpful...Really enjoyed hearing from the other ladies – so encouraging to feel some community with those other ladies – separate spouse time was great...Good, "safe" environment was created. Thanks ☺ I feel encouraged, hope – recharged to go back and try, try again.

I really appreciated your interest in us personally and how you created an open atmosphere to share and be vulnerable and resource each other, along with your insights. You added a fun dynamic to a familiar exercise (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator)...it was a very uplifting and encouraging time. Thank you both for coming and blessing us with your love and expertise!

It was greatly beneficial and an eye-opener for me to see how I do not affirm my husband enough with words... You have reminded me of how very important this is, and maybe especially so in the key leadership role my husband has...I really appreciated how you allowed for so much interaction. It was very helpful to hear others' struggles, perspectives, etc. Thanks again.

Thanks for practical, down to earth advice that should be easy to remember and use (rather than too much overwhelming advice!)

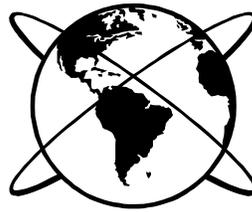
- *Loving initiation & responsibility vs. courageous, loving responder*
- *Freedom to enjoy the way we are wired and the way that affects our relationships (not better or worse, but different)*

Thanks for being willing to come and be honest and open with us. I enjoyed both Bill & Joyce's time they devoted to us, during their talks & throughout the conference. You both made a big effort to get to know us & care for us.

What was helpful:

- Myers-Briggs & celebrating the differences emphasis*
- The emphasis on marriage – communication—love languages*
- You're honest and being real with us*
- The approach to dealing with past hurts, resentment, bitterness, anger – and allowing God to heal.*

I have truly benefited from the chance to get some input into the practicalities of developing loving relationships within our missionary settings. Joyce, I enjoyed the open forum approach you had. You gave a chance to get professional input, but we got to discuss this also from our various experiential viewpoints. As a couple we have not sat in on any "marriage counseling" seminars & I thoroughly enjoyed doing that with my husband. flm



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

An Extra Gift

Local Baton Rouge supporters, Zed and Rachel Howell, shared their desire to encourage missionaries in the field. They enthusiastically offered to send a suitcase full of books with us: *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman.

When we made these books available, the conference attendees were like kids in a candy store! The foresight and generosity of this couple were truly appreciated by those who received the books. Thank you, Rachel and Zed! flm