



Set Free Update

A Publication of
Set Free Ministries
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**“ He who finds a wife finds a good thing
And obtains favor from the Lord. ”**

Proverbs 18:22

It was 25 years ago the good Lord blessed me with the precious gift of my beloved wife Sharie. Today, a quarter century later, we still have a **“good thing”** going.

Little did I realize on that wedding day in September 1984 what a precious gift I was given and what favor the Lord had showered upon me. “Thank you” Lord. Little did I realize back then the purposes of the marriage was to conform each of us into Christ-likeness. I must say that I was a long ways off from that mark when I said **“I do.”**

AW Tozer states: **“ Great faith is forged on an anvil called suffering.”** Sharie and I were placed upon this anvil of suffering 15 months into our marriage as we lost our first born daughter Katie Lynn the night after we publicly professed our faith in Jesus Christ at Heritage CRC. God’s ways are not our ways. This event and others have forged into our hearts not only a deep love and dependence upon God, but also deep compassion for others who are hurting and broken... as we ourselves have been.

Since those days of suffering, the Lord has richly blessed us with 6 more daughters and recently added family member Sam Wierenga whose mother died in 2007. Thank you Sharie, my beloved wife and friend, for 25 wonderful years that have strengthened my **faith**, and brought me great **hope** all wrapped up in **love**.

Thank you Lord for the wonderful blessing of my beloved wife Sharie.

I have found a good thing and have obtained favor from the Lord.

Dean Vander Mey.



SFM Around the World



SFM Heads to South America

Recently, Kevin Prins, the director of YWAM Trinidad/Tobago (Youth With A Mission), called Set Free Ministries asking for a team to come and teach at his Discipleship Training School this October. We are sending off the perfect team for the task!

Dean Bredeweg, a long time SFM volunteer, will be going along with his wife Loie Bredeweg, who is also a SFM volunteer and Board Member. The pair will be sent off to Trinidad from October 12 through October 16 to teach the students and staff members of YWAM about the importance of developing a Biblical worldview. They will also teach on discipleship ministry with the Steps to Freedom material.

The students who are attending the Discipleship Training School are being prepared for entering the mission field. Please pray for all involved. May the Lord’s words pour forth from the Bredewegs as they teach these young people, and may the hearts of the students be fully immersed in God’s truth as they prepare for mission work.



Mission Trip to Uganda!

When: October 19- November 4, 2009

Where: Uganda, Africa

Who: Dr. Paul Taveling and Dr. Jeff Stam, along with two nurses and one nurse's assistant

Why: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28) "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor..." (Luke 4)

Set Free Ministries is flying again! This time, Paul Taveling and Jeff Stam will be taking a small group with them to the southern (Rakai) and northern (Soroti) regions of Uganda.

In both Rakai and Soroti, Paul and Jeff will be conducting a two-day conference, teaching a total of 68 pastors and key community Spiritual leaders about how to disciple their own people in following the ways of God. Men and women will be traveling from surrounding countries- including Kenya and Tanzania- because they are so hungry for the Truth of God's Word, and want to share the Good News with their own countries. The goal is to Biblically equip the leaders in the regions so that they can be a shining light for the lost, even after the mission teams have left.

Back in 2005, SFM challenged one church to be such a "light to the nations." Some members of the congregation took up the challenge to follow and obey God's Word by helping out the widows and orphans in the "bush." The observing villagers were confused by such a selfless gesture and started asking questions about this Jesus man that they claimed to follow. Today, only four years later, that same congregation has jumped from 50 in attendance to 750 people! Praise God!

While Paul and Jeff will be teaching, the women will be conducting free medical clinics, two in Rakai and two in Soroti. The two registered nurses will be administering medications, bandaging up wounds, and treating infections along with the help of their assistant. This has been a long time dream of Set Free Ministries, to be able to offer physical healing along with Spiritual teaching, for this is what Jesus demonstrated when he visited various towns. Along with treatment, the nurses will offer educational clinics to women, teaching them how to prevent diseases and infections through basic hygiene care. They will also be informing them how to properly care for open wounds so as to prevent further harm and/or amputation.

The mission team is raising all of the funds needed- including lodging, food, and material handed out- for all 68 pastors/leaders at the conferences. The cost per pastor is \$40 a day, and the team does not have everyone covered yet. If you are interested in sponsoring a pastor and/or helping out with the medical clinics, feel free to make your check out to Set Free Ministries with the subject of your donation written on the bottom left-hand line of the check. The team is also accepting any type of bandages and Ibuprofen to hand out to those in need. All donation gifts may be sent to our address, listed on the first page.

Although funding is needed, the most important support that you can give this team is PRAYER. There is a spiritual war going on; our brothers and sisters in Christ need prayer cover from the Body of Christ as they go to battle against the adversary. Please remember to lift them up in the days to come.

~Aubrie Benting

“God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time. Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace...”

-Reinhold Niebuhr



Let me take a moment to say the exact opposite of what everyone else is shouting from the street corner-- we are living in some *wonderful* times! Now, before you go and label me some unrealistic optimist, let me explain myself.

Using the Brainy Quote online source, the definition of wonderful is as follows- Wonderful: Adapted to excite wonder or admiration; surprising; strange; astonishing. Let's first venture down the less positive connotation of the word. Was it astonishing when the stock market plummeted last year? Were you surprised when you found yourself out of a job after 25 years with the same company? Does your current financial situation have you wondering whether or not you will pay next month's bills?

I know ours does! **We have hit our all time low (financially) in 13 years of ministry, with currently insufficient funds to pay next months bills.** Am I worried? Not a chance! Here is where the positive side of wonderful comes in.

I cannot carry this burden. There is no way that I am going to be able to come up with a way to convince X amount of people to give X amount of dollars in a matter of days. I am insufficient- BUT- that's perfectly ok. I am resting peacefully because I know that God will see us through. If finances were not so bad, would I still be in this beautiful place of trust? I would like to say yes, but I don't know. Hard times bring you closer to God, and in this day and age, we have plenty of opportunity for that. Isn't that *wonderful*?

I have laid the request before the Lord; He knows our needs. Now, I am laying the request before the body of believers. If there is anyway that you are feeling called by the Lord to support the ministry, please do! Here are our numbers:

To function to our fullest, SFM has a budget of about \$350,000 per year (this is to cover SFM USA, SFM East Africa, and SFM India). That boils down to about \$958/day or \$120/hour. As it is right now, we are barely getting by with \$120,000/year or \$328/day or \$41/hour. Only 4% of our workers are paid, so there is not much room for cutting our costs. I would love to share with you how many lives are being touched, but due to the fact that we are helping people who in turn help people, the number is not countable, but please know that your support helps tens of thousands! You have three easy options to get involved:

1. Send check/cash to:

Set Free Ministries

700, 36th St. SE Suite 108

Grand Rapids, MI 49548

2. Credit Card Payment



3. Automatic Withdrawal

DONATE NOW!