

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 37 No. 281

May-July 2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

Servant Leadership

First, I give honor and glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is by His grace alone that we live and move and have our being. Proverbs 20:24 says “Man’s goings are of the Lord; how can a man understand his own way.” God continues to do exceedingly abundantly above what we could even ask or think...to Him be all the Glory. My heart is gripped with mixed emotions, amidst a world of suffering, sorrow, fear, and hunger. Through it all, Jesus is speaking, and I believe He is saying to all of us, “Come unto Me.”

The following is a summary of the official Executive Director transitioning that took place in Sarasota, Florida, on February 21st. The lunch and ceremony included our ministry staff, Executive Board, four of our daughters/sons-in-law, and a sprinkling of “significant others”, including my 94-year-old dad, Marvin Beachy, and John Schmid. My first vivid memory of my dad was at age four when he carried my polio ridden/partially paralyzed body into the local hospital. Now he’s carried me in his heart through all these years of ministry...an unexplainable blessing!

During that Friday meeting, I was asking us to try and wrap our minds around the tremendous impact of obeying the the Holy Spirit.

It’s unimaginable the far-reaching implications when Marvin Beachy obeyed God’s prompting and made that phone call to Sarah and I in January of 1974.



And then after 10 years of pouring life and purpose into our family, Marvin and the Gospel Echoes Board of Directors blessed our family to fulfill the evangelistic calling He had placed on our lives. Marvin was experiencing something that both of us have become familiar with throughout the years. When those around us obey the call to “greater works” they will pay a price and so will those around them.

Checking files, I see that the first newsletter article I wrote in August 1984 was titled “Heeding the Call.” The first 16 years of this ministry consisted primarily of singing and evangelistic ministry with our family, Duane Mullett, and the support of our office staff and Board of Directors. The ministry began to extend its reach with Freedom Hills in 1988, followed by North Florida Chaplaincy Program (known as GEMS - Gospel Express Ministries South), Door of Hope, Living Hope International, Gospel Express Canada and Texas, and From Pain to Purpose, from 1990-2015. The international ministry began to unfold in Kenya, Ghana, and Uganda, Africa in 1997 and 1998. In 1999, the Dave Miller Family joined the ministry.

Sharing about these avenues of ministry at the Florida meeting, I kept referring to the significance of the phone call Marvin made in 1974 and the decision that led to the formation of

Gospel Express in 1984. 2000-2001 was a difficult time for our family as “on the road” traveling and singing had come to an end. There were valleys of humiliation to walk through

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Executive Board

where I wondered, "God what are you saying?" What we didn't realize was that God was beginning a new chapter of ministry both stateside and international.

The one-family ministry branched into numerous families: families with musical talents and spiritual giftings. The families and office staff all belonged



With Marvin Beachy

to God, but He expected us to train, to equip, and to empower them to fulfill their God-given purposes. Now I came face to face with the biblical concept of leadership, "GIVE UP TO MOVE OTHERS UP." We prayed for them, and also released and blessed them when the time came. Genuine friendships were developed, whether they served here or elsewhere. In addition to the Miller's and the Mullett's, this included Ron Yoder's, Paul Mark Miller's, Steve Stutzman's, Amos Raber's, Sean Bontrager's, Jake Penner's, and the Mel Stoltzfus Family.

Following the Proverbs 11:14 principle, we formed a Co-Director team in 2002 with Duane Mullett, Dave Miller, and myself. Lonnie Raber and Mervin Wengerd were added later. It's a team effort that processes vision and daily ministry activities while providing a safety net. We established three core mission principles: evangelism, discipleship, and compassion. My role also changed then from Director to Executive Director.

Approximately 3 years ago, Sarah and I, along with Duane & Cindy Mullett and our Executive Board began the dialogue

of transitioning the Executive Director role. With a unified spirit, we asked Dave and Ruth Ann to consider filling this position. We are indeed grateful to God that they have humbly accepted this responsibility. God has blessed Brother

Dave with servant leadership qualities and team-building skills that I believe will enhance the overall ministry at Gospel Express, and beyond. Most importantly is the evidence of God's anointing upon his life and his family. As Christian leaders we have been called by Jesus to fulfill a most unorthodox method of leadership, "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant," Matthew 23:11. It's an upside-down Kingdom where he that is greatest becomes a servant of all. The servant ministry of Jesus in John 13 has deeply impacted my life. **That is why I chose to present a towel to Dave as a symbol of serving others.** The words of Jesus on the towel, "I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain," (John 15:16).

Are Sarah and I retiring? ☺ This is a word we have not heard from the Lord or the Board! We are so grateful for the support of our Board and co-workers. We have their utmost blessing to continue to develop areas of ministry wherein God has given me passion and vision for, honoring the fruit-bearing principle of Psalm 92:12-15 as long as God enables. Please pray for Brother Dave and all of us that we may continue working together in the spirit of unity wherein God commands His blessing.

~Nelson Coblenz

BIBLE COURSE MINISTRY...

It goes where we can't go right now

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly affected all of us in one way or another. There have been major schedule and travel disruptions, job layoffs, financial loss, and the list goes on.

As would be expected, prisons have been restricting visitors & volunteers, however, the Correspondence Bible Study Courses continue to have a great impact on the lives of inmates! **What a blessing to know that the printed Word of God is continuing to go where people are restricted from going.** God has promised that His Word will not return void, but it will accomplish what He chooses. God's Word remains powerful, in transforming hearts and lives!

Thankfully, we have been able to replenish our inventory for most of the English Studies. We are very grateful to God for many generous donors. The Arthur, Illinois community raised \$11,000 at the end of January with the annual Pizza Fundraiser! One individual recently sent in \$10,000 towards the Bible Studies! Our current inventory



It is during times like this that men find strength and guidance in the Word of God. Bibles and books are in constant need. Thank you for your ongoing support!

*~Chaplain Shreve,
Graham Correctional
Hillsboro, IL*

for the Spanish courses is almost depleted. Our two largest annual funding sources, the Mid-West and PA

auctions, both scheduled for April, have been postponed. We are trusting God to provide the resources and we

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2020 Statewide SC Prison Crusade

THANK YOU to **392** ministry partners, including **22** singing teams & evangelists, and **8** seminar instructors for your participation!

THANK YOU SCDC Directors, Wardens, Chaplains, Officers, and all employees for facilitating this event!



The biggest highlight for our family was when we were at Turbeville CI. After the service, we were invited to go back to the infirmary with the other volunteers. All of us, including our 7 children, were escorted by officers. We saw many in beds and wheelchairs. One man was sitting up in bed with NO legs! His powerful testimony of finding Jesus will never be forgotten! We were able to sing to him and so many others. We even sang to an officer. Then he sang Amazing Grace for us. It was such a powerful time of ministry! The officers said they had never had children back there before. To God be the glory!

~Ken Keller Family
(singing team)

This is our second year being a part of the South Carolina crusade. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share the Gospel with and minister to those behind bars. I always come away feeling energized and inspired. Yes, we come first and foremost to serve, but a week like this gives many opportunities for personal and spiritual growth as well.

~Travis Hugard
(singing team member)

This is my first experience with the crusade. The one thing I feared the most was the thing I was blessed by the most. I am naturally shy and was feeling apprehensive about one-on-one meetings. Yesterday I was able to minister to a woman that was trying to absorb the shock of losing her father in an auto accident that day. I shared with her the pain I felt when I lost my dad 32 years ago, and then we prayed together. I was touched by the many women's responses—the pain, the tears.

~Beth Hershey (volunteer)

A big thank you to those who provide meals at orientation. We really appreciate it. God bless you all abundantly!

~John Glick Family
(singing team)

I had the privilege to lead a lockup inmate to Jesus today! I've been blessed and it was a great encouragement! Praise God!

~Jacob Neufelds, (volunteer)

Your visit and worship was so wonderful and heartfelt. You gave me a reason for life. Thank you!

~Michelle (Leath inmate)



The Inspiration of Orientation

In January, Nelson and I were privileged to be part of a team that traveled to Uganda, Africa. For the next ten days, our eleven-member team worked alongside the Ugandan medical staff and local pastors to accomplish our mission of doing medical clinics in remote villages, ministry in prisons, hospitals, and churches, along with humanitarian outreaches.



The medical clinics were, for me, the most heart-breaking. We did clinics in three different villages and each one had lots of people and lots of sicknesses. We would treat between five and seven hundred people at each clinic and there were still many more that did not get medicine.

This region is close to the equator, very warm and humid, and as each day wore on, it was apparent

that there was no clean water available. We would take extra cases of bottled water along to hand out but there was never enough. It was hard to see some of the little children crying and it really impressed on all of us the dire need for clean water. Parasites, malaria, and malnutrition are very common and access to clean water would drastically reduce these illnesses and greatly improve the lives of these remote villagers.

Between clinics, we were privileged to be part of a four-hour Sunday church service in a small village. It was inspiring to see our brothers and sisters in Christ worship and to hear what God is doing in rural Africa. After the service, we were treated to a delicious local meal. We were all reminded that happiness and contentment do not depend on one's circumstances but on a relationship with our Savior!

Another highlight was prison ministry. Nelson has a good relationship with the Commissioner of Prisons in Uganda and through that, we were able to minister in four different prisons. It is not common for groups to go into prison, so most inmates were very receptive and open to hearing the Gospel. In Uganda, if a woman is incarcerated and has a child, it is common for the child/ mother to be together in prison. It was really heartbreaking to see these little ones inside barbed wire fences. The warden is pleading with us to build a daycare outside of the women's prison to provide care and education for these children.

The trip was a very moving experience. I'll never look at life the same. My sincere appreciation to everyone that was part of the team, from North America and Uganda. May God continue His work in and through us.

~Chris Blanks, Development Manager



UGANDA Mission

WELL DRILLING

Gospel Express is launching two initiatives in two villages. Secondly, we want to build a daycare from the women's prison.

If you would like to partner with us in our mission, please fill out a response card or visit our website: www.gospelexpress.org



The coronavirus in Africa has caused HUNGER due to logistical issues, curfews and travel bans. We are sending parcels to thousands of people in Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya. Your support is appreciated via the mission.

NDA Report

ING & DAYCARE

es. The first is to drill wells in these remote
ycare outside the prison fence for the children

either of these initiatives, see the enclosed
www.gospelexpress.com.



Africa has led to widespread
istical issues amidst very strict
bans. We are sponsoring food
nds of hunger-stricken villag-
na, and Nigeria. Contributions
e response card or online.



The greatest challenge was when it was time to shut down the medical clinic and turn away desperate moms with sick children. I just wanted to get alone with God and cry.

~Lester Zimmerman

The burden that the doctors and nurses have for the people is amazing. They treat hundreds without even taking a break.

~Eli Miller



I'm really touched by the way the Christians give their best even when they don't have much in material possessions. We are all one blood, created equal, and all bleed the same. I realize the blessing of things I used to take for granted, like water. Jesus has done so much for me!

~Elizabeth Shirk

Tarpaulins, blankets, and mosquito nets are not just simple gifts; they are **great gifts!** Also, Bibles given in local language are so very, very important, because they cannot afford to buy them.

~Pastor Daniel Male



When I am giving my life to the broken and hurting, I find joy and fulfillment that I have found in no other place.

~Ferman Miller

At Jinja prison, over 300 (out of 1200) inmates prayed to receive Jesus Christ. In the women's prison, a Muslim lady burst out in deep screams of bitterness. She was touched by the Holy Spirit, accepted Jesus Christ, and was delivered from the deep wounds of her past. Also, we need Sunday school materials. We teach our children how to dance, but they are not being taught how to live.

~Bishop Dickson



We have so little in common, except for JESUS. That gives us connection and fellowship. A highlight was ministering hope to the lonely and dying in the prison infirmary.

~Gary and Rosa Miller



Miller Boy's India Mission

Thank you to *For One Life* organization for the platform you give us to partner together in India!

It was a truly incredible month of serving and praising God with so many amazing people. Personal growth, helping others grow, strengthening relationships,



We will praise the Lord

and establishing many, many new ones, was all part of it. Each retreat and each week were so impactful in its own unique way. All the kids, and now friends, that the Lord designed to cross our paths while in India will always hold a special place in my heart! ~Kyle



The Jesus Story

The month-long India Mission was filled with much laughter, singing, drama, and energetic children! This year, God blessed each of the three retreats in

special ways that we have not seen in past years. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to share the story of Jesus with thousands of children. ~Eugene

What a time we had in India. Traveling to three different locations with a group by bus, train, and airplane is always an adventure. *One of the trip's most incredible moments was hearing that kids and adults were crying on the final day of the drama when Jesus was beaten and crucified, even if they couldn't understand what was being said.* We praise God for the hearts and lives that were and are being changed!

~Derek

MILLER FAMILY

A Gift from God - 2008 Prevost Bus

I hardly know how to begin this story, so I will start with some verses that have become so real in this process. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* - Isaiah 55:8-9

How long do you keep pouring funds into an old bus? We have been driving a 1992 Prevost, formerly used by the New Creation team, with likely close to two million miles. We can't know exactly because the odometer isn't accurate. The engine has had several rebuilds. The bus would still serve a purpose for a group that doesn't use it as heavily.



After the Executive Board approved (without borrowing money) moving ahead in the search for a new bus, we prayed, "Lord show us where the right bus is and where the funds will come from." Here's where my tears start: a 45 minute one-on-one meeting resulted in a generous contribution and then later led to this proposal: "I will offer to raise all the needed funds." What do you say to an offer like that? A HUGE THANK YOU is such an understatement. A 2008 Prevost bus was found, with a suitable interior layout and very little renovations needed. Because of the miles (713,000) on the original drive train, another individual offered to pay for a new engine and transmission... Glory to God! The purchase price was negotiated and the person God raised up to do the fundraising approved everything and went to work.

The fundraising was largely done through personal contact and very little had to be mentioned at public functions or on social media. Normally this would be a long and arduous procedure, ranging from eight months to a year, but it all took place in approximately 60 days! Currently, the bus is here and ready to go! We have marveled and wept tears of joy repeatedly. *"My ways are not your ways..."*

Then, as if all of this wasn't enough, the first of the year I was contacted by an individual who offered to pay for all the fuel in the Miller bus for 2020!! Because of the coronavirus, we can't travel right now, but we are trying to stay patient.



From our family and the entire team at Gospel Express, "THANK YOU." We are so grateful for your investment in our family and the Kingdom of God.

~Dave, for the Miller Family

2020 BIBLE READ-A-THON

Praise Report: Proceeds raised—all time high!



A huge thank you to all the children and sponsors. The hunger for the printed Word is enormous in third world countries. We have reached a new high with our 2020 Read-A-Thon in both pages and proceeds! 80



The cost for each Bible ranges from \$4-9 depending on the language. This Read-A-Thon should enable us to purchase approximately 8,520 Bibles!

Please pray with us for wisdom as we give Bibles to church leaders, villagers, refugees, and prisoners throughout the continent of Africa.



“Bibles given in local language are so very, very important, because they cannot afford to buy them.”

~Pastor Daniel Male



children have collectively read over 183,500 pages. 463 sponsors have contributed over \$51,100 which will all be used to

purchase Bibles, because five donors have covered all expenses...PTL!

Mel Stoltzfus Family

Pictured in front of their newer Allegro bus, the Mel Stoltzfus family plans to work on a new CD this summer.

You may notice an addition to the family... a healthy baby girl!

Keziah Hope

Born March 21, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz.

If you are interested in scheduling the family to sing at your church or event you may call the office at 828-859-7003.



Opportunities To Serve With Gospel Express

HOUSEPARENTS/PROPERTY MANAGER NEEDED!

***This volunteer position is available now*

- ◆ Interact with single staff members, maintain the grounds and buildings, run errands, help with office projects, and more.
- ◆ This is an ideal position for a retired couple. Move to beautiful North Carolina! There are busy days but you will also have time for personal pursuits and to enjoy your retirement.

OFFICE HELP

There are no current secretarial openings, however, we welcome applications anytime.

Positions:

- ◆ Evangelistic Ministry Secretary
- ◆ Accounting Secretary
- ◆ International Ministry Secretary

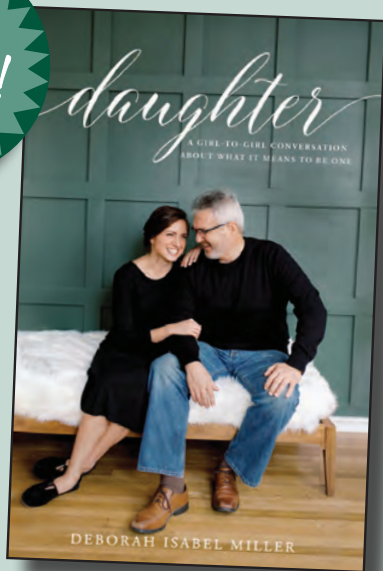
BIBLE COURSE MINISTRY

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know He is in control of all this! Our goal is to replenish our stock with 17,000 books. This cost would come to \$20,550. There is opportunity to help with this need on the enclosed response card. Pray with us as we adjust, and also for creative ways in funding the ongoing Bible study/materials ministry.

To apply or for more information on any of these positions contact Lonnie Raber mail@gospelexpress.com • 828-859-7003

New Book!



daughter
A GIRL-TO-GIRL CONVERSATION
ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ONE

Deborah Miller unpacks the questions she had in her relationship with her dad as she transitioned from girlhood to womanhood.

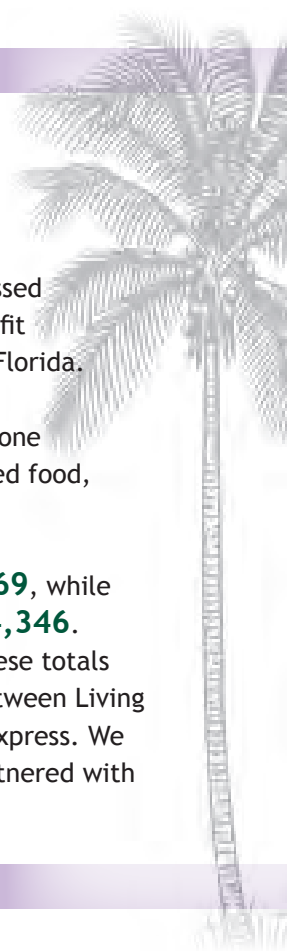
She shares from the Word of God, her own story, and the stories of young women she's met, offering insight for a connected relationship with Father God and "dad."

SEE THE ENCLOSED RESPONSE CARD OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO PLACE AN ORDER

FLORIDA Auction Report

We have been tremendously blessed once again with the annual benefit auction and revival meetings in Florida. We are not only grateful for the financial blessings, but for everyone who helped at the auction, served food, and assisted in any other way.

The food income totaled **\$23,569**, while the auction itself brought in **\$24,346**. Expenses will be taken out of these totals yet. Proceeds will be divided between Living Hope International and Gospel Express. We thank God for everyone who partnered with us from Sarasota and beyond!



Team Schedules

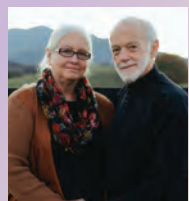
It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:22-23.

NOTE: Due to the coronavirus pandemic this schedule is very tentative. Stay tuned to our social media and website for updates. Call the office at 828-859-7003 before traveling a long distance. We rejoice and know one thing that is for sure... God's mercies and His faithfulness are not tentative, but solid and certain!

Miller Family



Nelson & Sarah



Mervin & Freida Wengerd



Mullett Family



Stoltzfus Family



MILLER FAMILY
May 4-8 Staff Meetings - Columbus, NC
Jun 7-21 20-Year Anniversary Tour
Jul 13 Board Meeting - Columbus, NC
Jul 19-21 Campground Meetings - Landisville, PA
Jul 22 Church Service - DE
Jul 23 Glenn Maust Residence - Accident, MD

NELSON & SARAH COBLENTZ
May 4-8 Staff Meetings - Columbus, NC
Jun 22-Jul 5 Uganda, Africa
Jul 13 Board Meeting - Columbus, NC

MERVIN & FREIDA WENGERD BTF = Bondage to Freedom
May 4-8 Staff Meetings - Columbus, NC
Jul 13 Board Meeting - Columbus, NC
Jul 16-18 BTF Seminar - Huttonsville CC, WV
Jul 20-21 BTF Seminar - Belmont CI, OH
Jul 22-23 BTF Seminar - Noble CI, OH

MULLETT FAMILY/ From Pain to Purpose
May 4-8 Staff Meetings - Columbus, NC
Jun 11-14 Fremont CF (P2P) - Canon City, CO
Jun 18-21 LaVista CF (P2P) - Pueblo, CO
Jul 13 Board Meeting - Columbus, NC

MEL STOLTZFUS FAMILY
May 4-8 Staff Meetings - Columbus, NC

The annual PA Benefit Auction Weekend is tentatively re-scheduled for August 27-29.

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC TEAM INC.

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