



## Two Needs

Steve Vinton, August 15, 2007

Friends, we have two needs.

Tomorrow we will be heading down to Texas Children's Hospital with Jonathan because the doctors discovered during their initial tests two weeks ago the possibility that there is leakage in the right ventricle of his heart. We're very thankful that we brought him home for the "routine check-up" as the doctors wanted us to! We're even more thankful that the doctors don't want to rush into doing open-heart surgery on him, but instead want to do an MRI of his heart to be absolutely sure that something really is wrong, as well as to get a better idea of what to do if there really is a problem. So we want to ask you as our friends to pray for Jonathan and the doctors and also for us because depending on what we find out tomorrow we're going to have to scramble to figure out what we need to do in light of what the doctors tell us. Our plans have been to leave to return to Tanzania on August 26th.

At the same time that we are thinking of our personal needs as a family, our thoughts race fast forward a couple of months to next January. We already have eight schools which are functioning in Tanzania, and we are working right now with people to build seven more schools and therefore we look to the future with the incredibly wonderful possibility that we might succeed in having as many as 15 schools after the start of the New Year! If that happens enrollment in our schools could easily double -- jumping from over 1600 students to certainly more than 3000! It's not the number of desks and blackboards and books and sacks of cement that we'll need that is our real concern. Susan's father always told her that if a problem can be fixed by money, then it's not a real problem. A real problem is a problem that

money can't fix. And our problem is where do we come up with all of the teachers to teach those kids! As we think about all of these kids who today have no place to go to school, whose parents are hauling stones and making bricks and working hard at a feverish pace to build classrooms for them, we can only feel compassion. When Jesus looked out at the multitudes He felt compassion, and His compassion moved him to tell his disciples to look out at those fields that were ripe unto harvest, to see that the workers were few, and then to do the job of praying unto the Lord of the Harvest that He might send workers into the harvest field! In a similar way we're feeling that we ought to come to you and to ask for your help. We do indeed need people to pray that God will call workers to come to these villages to serve these children, and their parents, and their communities, to show love and concern, to share the gospel, to get involved in the lives of people and to help transform those villages.

In Tanzania in the coming months Godfrey, Emmanueli, Janerose, Pauline and I will be speaking in colleges and universities challenging Christian young people to give of themselves for a few months or for a few years and to come join us.

And in the US and in Canada and in Europe we are hoping that the word will spread of this need as well. God has blessed us with 34 missionary teachers over the last two and a half years and we have another 14 preparing to come join us in September of this year and 6 who are already making their preparations to come in 2008. We have a tremendous opportunity to have people go to serve as teachers in villages where missionaries have

never before lived. And so we want ask you, our friends and partners with us in this ministry, to help us by passing around the attached PDF file either by printing it out and sharing it with other people or by contacting people you know, telling them a bit about VSI and asking them if they would mind if you forwarded this PDF file on to them.

I cannot help but ask myself why Jesus told his disciples to pray that God would send out workers into the harvest field -- after all surely God knew that workers were needed! Surely God did not need to be reminded or to be somehow spurred on to action by mere

mortals! But for some reason that my mind fails to completely grasp God uses those prayers to accomplish His program. Jesus was so full of compassion that He was moved in His heart, and I cannot believe that He would have then told them to pray for workers if their prayers were a needless exercise of no importance. Somehow those prayers translate into the Spirit of God moving in the hearts of people, causing them to be obedient to a call from Him to go out in service. And therefore I ask you to pray for workers for Tanzania.

Just as I ask you to pray for our son.