

boisvert update

SERVING WITH
**Tri-M
Africa**
Mobile
Modular
Ministry

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:22).

THE CONTEXT OF OUR featured verse above is Paul facing some very difficult situations involving life and death. He welcomed death to be with Christ but was also expressing his conclusion that it would be better for the Philippians (and us!) that he continue in the flesh to minister to God’s people. Now a prisoner in Rome, Paul had to decide how he would view his life after enduring persecution from his enemies and encountering dangers on his travels. Was he going to focus on his own comfort and desire to be with Christ or seek to serve the One he most desired to be with by staying where he was serving—the “more needful” part of verse 24? While I certainly am *not* facing the same circumstances as Paul, I would like to share how God used this Scripture passage in my life last June on my most recent trip overseas.

My trip to South Sudan was certainly not life threatening, like Paul’s; however, it was extremely frustrating! My Ugandan partner and I had spent months planning and re-planning this three-week teaching venue in places where we are introducing Tri-M-type training for the area pastors and church leaders. All seemed well, and flights were booked with confirmations reconfirmed. The very day I arrived in Uganda to prepare for the next flight into South Sudan, I received an “urgent” reply by email. The contact per-



son was puzzled by the “different dates” of the first two of our three teaching sites. With no roads to help us get around inside South Sudan, and with MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) flight schedules already set, we faced a serious dilemma: men were embarking on a two-to-three-day journey on foot a week earlier than we could possibly fly in to join them! Besides that, none of the men I was scheduled to teach the first week had responded yet to our Sudanese organizer so evidently would not be there when I was scheduled to arrive. At first, it seemed from my vantage point that I was “all dressed up with nowhere to go”—or at least nowhere to teach for two weeks! It was Saturday, and now I had to wait until Monday to even talk to anyone about alternative plans for my flights.

It was very tempting to just pack my bags and head back home!

I confess that I was very much of a mind to say that we could not work with these two groups again. I had already had one cancellation two years earlier with this same group, but I was convinced we had worked out those obstacles and that God had opened a door to resume assisting them again in the training ministry they were envisioning. Had I misread God’s leading in this?

Monday was a long day of phone calls and rearranging things to fly into the one area where the men were coming for teaching on Wednesday. Another complication was that my Ugandan partner, who was scheduled to teach with me, would be delayed at least one more week, so I had *his* course *plus* my own to teach—if only I could get together with some students! Needless to say, this was not the way we had planned it. With all the problems, it was hard for me to imagine that this was God rearranging things for His purposes. Rather, I thought, this was *other people* making mistakes that were costing God’s work both time and money. But God was working in spite of all of this!

After much legwork and finally getting a flight into the second teaching site, I was able to get to the waiting men, who were ready to study. Shortly after arriving that first week, I felt that just being with the men and hearing



My South Sudanese Students—Many with Heartbreaking Stories to Tell!

about their ministries had caused me read Philippians 1 in a different light. It was not for *my* comforts or plans that God had taken me to South Sudan. Even though the actions of others had negatively affected me, the training that took place that week was obviously for God's glory and purposes. "For me to live is Christ." It was more needful for my students that I return and assist them in their training.

Sudanese men have very little education past the second grade. They cannot read fast or write well, but they have nevertheless been preaching the truth they do know for many years! Still, the risks are great. One pastor watched as his wife was abused and murdered before his eyes by Sudanese soldiers, and then just months after remarrying, he was forced to watch the same thing happen to his new wife—all because the same soldiers wanted to see this "born againer" (their word for a Christian) break down in despair. Another man was kicked out of school and denied further education by so-called "Christian" leaders because his father's preaching had ignited a vast revival in South Sudan that turned many Sudanese to the Bible, instead of blindly listening to their church leadership. His entire family was rejected by the main church group in South Sudan. Both of these men are still preaching the clear gospel of Jesus Christ but are also passionately asking for help to replace the training they missed and were cut off from.

Those are just two examples of why I am going back to South Sudan to

teach, in spite of potential glitches and headaches. I have made better contacts with those more directly involved, and the mobile phone system is improving in South Sudan, both of which should eliminate some of the problems. However, the main reason is the fact that God is at work there! It is not about my comfort or desires but totally about Christ living in me and doing *His* work here on earth (Phil. 1:25). Please pray that I will be able to keep this perspective in the future.

What about you, my friend? Is there a conviction from God that is pushing you out of your comfort zone to serve Him and His people?

OUR NEXT TRIP

Cheryl and I leave this month for a five-week teaching trip in three African countries. It will include a new venue in Tanzania, where opportunities are growing rapidly. The new venue could actually draw more students than the other two, Uganda and Kenya, combined! Please continue to pray for our translators' health and for their understanding of our words and phrases. As I have explained in previous newsletters, often we first teach the materials to our translators, and they in turn teach them to their fellow African brothers and sisters.

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF B.E.S.T.

Thanks to God for using many of you in donating graduation caps and gowns. On August 25, the first graduating class of the **Bukeeka Evangelical School of**

Theology in Uganda (with Certificates in Biblical Studies) will be finely decked out! These new graduates are excited about not only completing this first step towards a B.A., but also because it's an important step in preparing for ministering the Word of God.

FAMILY UPDATE

Praise God that we had our daughter, Katy, and her two children up for three-and-a-half weeks while our son-in-law was in South America for a teacher exchange program. Our other daughter, Dani, has plans to return to college soon after we leave in August. Thank you for praying for our family as well as our travels!

NEW WEB SITE

We are rebuilding our Web site. The new address is www.tri-m-boisverts.org. Our prayer letters are archived there, and you'll also find links to videos and photos. We still have an amazon.com link at the bottom of page one that explains how your online shopping at Amazon can assist African pastors in receiving much-needed resources.

The Boisvert Update is published bi-monthly as a service to interested friends and supporters and is distributed by Springville Baptist Church, P. O. Box 185, Springville, Pennsylvania 18844.

©2012 by Doug and Cheryl Boisvert

Please send all gifts to
Grace Global Ministries
c/o Boisverts
P. O. Box 12
Cedarville, OH 45314