

WITS (WALKING IN THEIR SHOES) INTERNATIONAL

PROVIDING SUPPORTIVE COUNSELING AND TRAINING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY

FOCUSING ON THE MINISTRY OF LEE AND CAROLYN BAAS

(Kindly note that this newsletter replaces the September Newsletter. Most of this was written in September but we only emailed a half page information sheet to many of you at that time. Our new dates for our newsletter will be November, February, May, August.)

*May you have a thankful Thanksgiving
A Blessed Christmas
A New Year filled with His presence leading you*

November 2011

**Thank God for dirty dishes,
They have a tale to tell;
While others are hungry,
We've eaten well.**

One step at a time

(written in September)

I am at the airport in Kenya waiting for a plane to go to Zambia. A young East African couple and their almost 1 year old boy are in the crowded waiting room. As any proud parents would do they got on their knees on the floor with the child between them and tried to coax him to walk from one to the other. Many of us in the room were watching. After a few tries, the little boy actually took a step on his own going to mama. The parents were smiling and many of us were clapping. Everyone shared in the joy of watching a child take his first steps.

It was just one step. But that was all that was needed at this time..

Only one step to prove that he could do it.

Are you afraid to take a step? I meet a lot of people who are concerned about taking one step. There are things that they should do but they hesitate to take the

first step.

That little child was very uncertain and afraid but when he saw his mommy he knew that he would be safe and could take the one step.

I thought of the song with a line, "One step at a time, Lord!"

% % %

Some time ago, a missionary dad said to me, "***I have given up hope for my child.***" They had tried *everything* but the child was not obeying them and often lied to them. He made that comment as I was talking to him and his wife about their teenager. Very few parents are so vocal about the hopelessness they feel about making changes in the behavior of their child. When a teenager takes their first step of rebellion against Mom and Dad, many parents are unable to cope with the fact that the teen is beginning to take his/ her first step in becoming their own person.

Parents are fearful when they see signs of rebellion or when their child gets in trouble at school or with others. They try punishment and plead with the child. They threaten the child. What the child hears is rejection from his/her parents and even

from God.

Parents are shocked that their teen or early teen-aged child shrugs off their warnings and continues with his or her unacceptable behavior.

Parents are afraid. What should they do? What can they do?

A few months ago I met with a mom and her 14 year old daughter. The question in the mother's eye was, "***Will my daughter make it?***" Why are we so fearful? Why do we worry? Should we worry? Do we have a right to worry? God wants us all of us to keep taking one step

- in the training of our children and loving them.
- -in the development of our gifts/talents,
- -in moving ahead in our work
- - in our relationships with others, -
- **in trusting Him.**

What a blessing it is to see people come to an understanding of God's love and care. They understand who God is and know that they don't have to worry about life. Like the mom and dad with arms

stretched out to catch their little boy if he fails his first step. God says step out – you don't have to worry, if you start to wobble I will catch you.

WHY WORRY?



Before yellow smiling face buttons were almost everywhere, there was an iconic smiling freckle faced kid with his middle tooth out and his three word line, ***“What, Me Worry?”*** He graced the cover of many issues of MAD magazine and was seen in many other magazines and illustrations. ***The fictitious, Alfred E. Newman, brought a smile.*** He was a symbol of being able to smile and not worry and being able to ignore all of the bad stuff going around.

% % %

Christians do not ignore their situation in life or the difficulties of living in a decaying world. They know that even when the going is tough, this is still their Fathers world and nothing – absolutely nothing, can take away the fact that their Father will continue to watch over them and support them even when the going is tough.

Their one step turns into a daily walk - A walk with sprightly steps.

I must quote the Apostle Paul who really caught it, he said, *“But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil 3:13,14.*

Paul walked and ran with all of his energy focused on the task and not on worry.

If we worry we fail.

If we worry we are not trusting God to care for us.

This is true even though we live in a world where one disaster follows another.

In Kenya, **three days after an explosion in a slum area**, I went with a missionary to the area. The explosion had injured and killed hundreds of people. BBC reported, *“The scene is horrific, with charred bodies all around. I cannot differentiate between men and women or boys and girls. All that is left are bones, and the only way to identify the children is from their smaller skeletons.”* The pictures I have are to graphic to print. The picture below shows people trying to cope with the tragedy of the explosion.



People lived in the Lunga Lunga area right over the gas pipeline. Whenever there was a gas leak, everybody ran down with their jerry cans to get some free fuel. This fire and explosion was probably caused by someone throwing a lighted cigaret butt. **Hungry people will risk their lives so that they can get food for themselves and their families.** **“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me.” - Jesus Christ**

During this Thanksgiving season while we remember with thanks what we have, we must also remember what we can do for others.

It is important that we give food and money to help the poor. And we may not forget that **tens of thousands die each year without knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?** What are we doing about it?

% % %

We live in a society that tells us to be neutral. We should accept all beliefs for the good they have in them, and be open to accept the life style and conduct of others no matter what the Bible says about them.

May God help all of us to be faithful to His Word and to be positive, loving Christians in a world where hate often takes the front seat,

% % %

We wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Carolyn and I thank you for faithfully presenting our challenges and needs before the Lord. This has been a busy year and a very blessed year for us. There are so many people searching for help. You have made this ministry a possibility and encouraged us with your love. THANK YOU!

% % %

You can contact us at:
WITS INTERNATIONAL
101 Washington PMB 261
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-844-3360
witsinternational@yahoo.com
www.witsinternational.org

If you have any comments or questions about this ministry please direct your questions to us either through e-mail or via the telephone number above. Thank you and keep praying.