

Mon 2/13/2017 5:10 PM

Dear friends

We are sending this newsletter as part of the email rather than an attachment. Many people have told us that they do not read attachments.

Rather than have a two page newsletter, we will begin in April to send only a one page newsletter as a part of the email. We hope that this will make it easier for you to keep informed of the ministry that the Lord has given to us.

Thanks,
Lee and Carolyn Baas

WHO IS LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER?

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

February 2017 newsletter

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Sometimes when I meet an individual in a restaurant or hotel, they keep looking over their shoulder to see if anyone is watching them.

Last year I met with a man who was sure that everyone walking by was looking over his shoulder. He was terribly afraid to use his computer in a restaurant because he was afraid that someone would see what he had written. He thought that they might steal some of his information or they might be able to copy his e-mail address. He lived with irrational fear that somehow his personal information would be compromised.

Are you afraid of someone looking over your shoulder? What if they saw everything you did? What if they could read your thoughts? Scary, isn't it!

We all have thoughts that we don't want others to know about, and the beautiful thing is that God recognizes that we live in a world of sin. It is easy for bad thoughts to confront us. He provides a way out so that we don't have to act on them and He provides help for us to get rid of them. **"Above all, guard your heart for it affects everything you do." (Proverbs 4:23)**

The measure of a person is not how many people serve them but how many they serve

A short time ago I met a man I will call, Mason. He was the pastor, and his wife was very active in the church. As the ministry grew, they unknowingly began competing with each other. Love for each other was replaced with suspicion. Tension grew and their marriage was suffering. A good friend was concerned and encouraged them to see me.

When I work with couples I initially see them individually. It gives them freedom to say whatever they want and it allows me to ask questions of them that I could not ask if I was meeting them together. Each one was surprised that they were trying to succeed at the expense of the other mate. Together we explored what married love and a servant role model would look like. With God's help they were able to see that working together in love would be a win-win situation. We put some ground rules into place and instead of looking over

each other's shoulder, they are now able to help each other do a better job. Both their ministry and marriage has improved.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage them.



SINGAPORE

My first trip this year was to Singapore and the Philippines (this picture was taken in the Singapore airport). It was my first trip back to Singapore in seven years. I was met at the airport by a director of one of the mission organizations. He said, "What took you so long to come back?" I told him that I hadn't forgotten them I had been working with some missionaries in Singapore via Skype but requests from others seemed more urgent. All of my time in Singapore was spent with individual counseling. I could not meet all of the requests. Pray that we may know when to say "yes" and when to say "no" to requests for seminars, workshops or personal counseling.

A woman (lets call her Tara) wrote me an e-mail. Her teen age son was ***"absolutely incredibly impossible to figure out."***

Do you have teenagers? (you probably forgot how you were when you were a teen!). One minute teens can't stand their parents and the next minute they can't get along without their parents.

I met this woman a few weeks later and, along with a list of other complaints, she said that her son would do things and say things that he should not say. She and her husband tried everything to stop him, They would punish him by making him do extra work and although he did it, he would not change his conduct. I asked her if she knew **why** he did those things. She didn't know. I asked her if they ever **asked their son why** he did them. She said, No. We discussed a little more about what happens to a young person when they go through their teens. It can be a struggle for them. They get angry when they have never been angry before. When they can't understand a situation they act differently than when they were an obedient 10 year old. Teenagers need to know that Mom and Dad love them even when they don't follow through with the house rules. If you have teens, give them a break. Tell them you want to understand them. Ask them for forgiveness when you got angry with their conduct. Tell them that before you punish them, you will try to understand them and will give them an opportunity to explain. Make sure they see your welcome smile when they talk to you.

***** *"Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."* I Cor. 1:31 *****

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Our work does not stop when we are back in the States. Carolyn handles all of the bookkeeping and acknowledges and records gifts. She writes notes of encouragement to our supporters.

Along with my preparations for workshops and seminars for missionaries and pastors, I spend time with missionaries via the internet, following up previous contacts I made overseas. This is almost a daily activity. Of course, there is also time spent in making travel plans, and booking flights and accommodations. We also have to handle requests from missionaries and mission organizations regarding possibilities for our visits with them.

The day after I came back from Singapore, I received an e-mail from a mission leader in another country asking if she could talk to me about a problem issue within their organization. I meet with directors of this mission organization every few years. Sometimes to discuss administrative issues dealing with missionaries and sometimes to talk with new missionary recruits.

Last week I received a call from a missionary who asked if he and his wife could have a stand-by with me the following morning. We had a 45 minute stand-by the following morning. We often get requests to talk on the phone or Skype. Even when I am in the U.S, there are opportunities to help people – sometimes with simple questions and at other times crisis issues.

WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) came into existence in January 1999. We expected that we would do this service for a few years but it has become an **18 year blessed experience**. By God's grace and with your prayers, encouragement and help, we will continue with this ministry. Although last year was a more expensive year with both travel and on-site expenses greater than previous years, your gracious giving moved us back into the black at the end of the year. A **BIG thank you** and may the Lord bless you for standing with us.

Although a lot of missionaries know about us, at times we meet missionaries who ask us why no one told them about WITS. Please tell your missionary friends about us.

I (Lee) leave for Nigeria on the 16th of February. I plan to return on March 3. My current schedule is for Vietnam mid-March and Kenya and Uganda in April. May the Lord daily provide for you.