

"IN HIS STEPS. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?"

WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) International April 2018

-providing supportive counseling and training to the Christian expatriate community.

-FOCUSING ON THE MINISTRY WORK OF Lee and Carolyn Baas

Sometimes things just don't go the way we planned.

This newsletter has gone through a couple of morphs".

We started this in late March with a title, "Maundy – the New Commandment".

I had been working on a message for Maundy Thursday and decided to focus this newsletter on the same subject as my message. It began with a reminder that "maundy" = new commandment. That refers to the last commandment Jesus gave to the disciples. "Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another." I had a ½ page finished.

One week later, because I was still concerned about a couple of "abuse" charges that missionaries told me about, and the almost daily news about some sexual related incident or charges, I changed the title.

The 2nd edition of this newsletter changed to one bold lettered hash tag, "#METOO"

It began with concerns related to me by 2 missionaries – in different parts of the world (They had given me permission to tell their stories).

One was a male. He heard from friends that a lady was considering charging him with abuse. It was sad because even the lady's best friend said that she and others knew the charges were unfounded and tried to dissuade her from making a charge against the man. Although he had "proof" that the charges were unfounded, a lawyer friend said that in today's climate of abuse charges, it would be a difficult situation for him.

The second situation was that of a woman. She was considering making charges against another individual.

OK – I started writing --- not just about these two but other related issues

I stopped because I thought that some of you might misunderstand and think that we should show more (or less) interest in helping those that are struggling with these issues.

I really didn't know where to go after that. Should we again relate how the Lord is blessing us with good health and enough funds to carry out this ministry that He had called us to do?

It almost sounds like a broken record. We go to a country to follow up on some previous contact or because we were asked to help with a particular situation. Then, the Lord shows us that there is a much more urgent need and we know that is why we had to be there. Of course, it is in answer to your prayers and our prayers that these open doors exist. The Lord goes before us and prepares others to seek help when we arrive. This year I have been in W. Africa, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. I leave for East Africa (Kenya and Uganda) next week.

Now the last title change, **"In His Steps. What would Jesus do?"** Many of you know that this title comes from the book by Charles Sheldon. The story begins as members of a small church commit to not take any action without first asking the question, "What would Jesus do? That would determine their action. 30 million copies of that book have been sold. What would happen to our country if only 10% of those who read it agreed to follow that action?

We just finished with the 40 days of Lent, the cross, and the empty tomb. As we step into the future, all of us must ask, "What would Jesus have me do."

Redd Harper, the singing cowboy in one of the early Billy Graham films sang two songs that I remember. One was "Are you willing to be willing to go anywhere with Jesus?" and the other was, "I'm following Jesus each step of the way..."

Our prayer from this end is that we all will always ask:

1. "What would Jesus have us do? 'and,
2. That we will be willing to follow His steps wherever he leads.

Our prayer for you is that you may also make that your prayer.