



April 16, 2009

Dear Friends,

I must tell you up front this newsletter is difficult for me to write. I enjoy writing when I am in good places and feeling encouraged. Right now, I am neither and yet circumstances require me to write. ☺

As those of you who have been connected to our ministry for some time have probably already guessed, my primary struggle is a financial one. I hate writing letters where finances are the focus. I would much prefer to write about the amazing things we are seeing God do in healing the broken. However, right now, circumstances require I share with you our financial situation.

Last summer we were granted about a six month reprieve from this struggle because of a large gift which was donated by some wonderful friends of the ministry. Over time, however, our expenses continued exceeding our income to the point the surplus from their gift was depleted just after the first of the year.

Since that time we have made some progress thanks to several of you stepping up in sacrificial ways. However, we continue to fall further behind. Our deficit also coincides with difficult financial times for many in our ministry as several of our consistent donors have lost jobs, income and etc.

Therefore, I am writing to solicit your help on several different fronts. Of course you can help by sending donations. Any gift, large or small, one time or recurring is an incredible blessing. God will use any gift you give as part of our provision. However, there are other significant and even creative ways you can give to our ministry.

First, you can pray for God to release his blessing on us and on our ministry. We truly believe God is our provider. However, we also know that many times the enemy works his schemes in an attempt to frustrate God's blessings. Please pray against Satan's attacks on our finances.

Second, you can give gifts in kind. I.e. if you have a vehicle, real estate or other possessions you are ready to get rid of, you can donate them and we can sell them and write you a tax donation letter for its worth. While we don't want to become a "marketplace," there are likely others in the ministry who would enjoy selling donated items. (In fact, if you enjoy working Craig's list, Ebay and other such outlets, please let me know )

Third, you can tell others about the benefits, blessings and needs of our ministry. Over the years, we have had a number of "surprise gifts" come because someone in our ministry told someone they knew about us and they have in turn sent a monetary gift. You could also speak to your pastor or other leaders in your church, asking them to have me speak. I truly believe God has given me a very important and unique message that the church desperately needs to hear. I also believe that opportunities to speak to churches will both bring others into the ministry who need recovery as well as open doors for new financial partners. One of our long time contributors began giving shortly after hearing me speak to a men's group five years ago.

I'm also feeling a burden to get our message of hope to more people. Just this week, I had a phone conversation with a woman in another town whose husband is deep in an addiction to pornography. He has told her for years that "all men do this" and that she just needs to "get over it." She is afraid to talk to her pastor because she fears he might agree with her husband. Obviously, I don't know anything about her pastor and have no idea if her perceived reality is valid. However, I do know what an empowering thing it would be for her (and potentially convicting for him) if she and her husband heard me speak on the issue.

The women in our churches need to hear a very clear message that they are not crazy and that the problem is real and very damaging. I believe I have a unique calling and gift to deliver that message, but I also know how reluctant churches are to broach this difficult subject in their assemblies. That is part of why we need your help. Few things will motivate church leaders to address the issue like one of their members telling their own story and talking about what a difference it has made to get in the light and begin the recovery process. Let me also encourage you to be bold and persistent. Many of you remember the incredibly painful place you were in when you didn't know there was a safe place to turn. My heart breaks over the fact that there are countless individuals and couples even right here in Lawrence suffering without any knowledge that our ministry exists.

Most of the local pastors know about us, however, that doesn't mean the people in the churches do. I know it is a scary thing for many to tell those in their church leadership about their struggles, however, if your spiritual shepherds are not safe people and you can't speak honestly to them about your journey then something is really wrong. Satan constantly tries to silence us and one of his most effective tools is shame. Ironically, one of the best antidotes to shame is telling others your story.

We also ask for your prayers on other fronts as well. I will finish my "Story of David Through the Lens of Addiction and Recovery" sermon series this Sunday. God provided an individual willing to transcribe the series and I hope to convert it into a book in the very near future. Please pray that God will guide me as I do the editing and rewriting required. It has without a doubt been the most challenging and amazing series I've ever preached and I am excited about what God will do with it in the future. It is available now in MP3 audio form on two CD's. There will be copies available on the resource table downstairs or they can be ordered.

Please pray also for us as we make decisions and plans for the future. There are many opportunities and challenges before us. I am constantly struggling with my priorities and my schedule as my counseling load has increased dramatically over the past year. Please pray that God will speak clearly and that I will be obedient to his calling.

Finally, I just want to take a moment to thank you for your encouragements. I've had many phone calls, notes and emails from you thanking us for our ministry, telling how you have been blessed by the David series and just letting us know you are praying for us. I am also humbled and encouraged every time I get the mail and find a check from any of you. I know there are many good and deserving ministries you could support. I know finances are tight for all of us in this economy and the fact that so many of you give what you do to us, constantly blows me away. I thank God for your generosity and your faithfulness.

Because of the resurrection,



Darrell Brazell

PS I have included a response card and a stamped envelope. We would really like to hear back from each of you even if it is only by checking the box asking to continue receiving the newsletters (or asking to be removed from our mailing list). If you feel God is calling to give a onetime gift or make a monthly pledge, we will certainly appreciate that as well.