



**“I pray that the God of peace will give you every good thing you need so you can do what he wants.”
Hebrews 13:20–21**

June 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

I wanted to let all of you know about my trip to Nicaragua in the first week of July. There I will be leading a Pastors Conference for 50 pastors in the city of Masaya, which is about 25 miles southeast of the capital city of Managua. CrossWay International has been working there for several years. We've drilled a well and taught Bible studies for women and children, in addition to several Pastors

Conferences. This conference will be taught through Spanish interpreters and God has provided two experienced Bible teachers to help with the training. Please pray that God will give me wisdom and grace as I learn the ropes of ministry in Nicaragua.



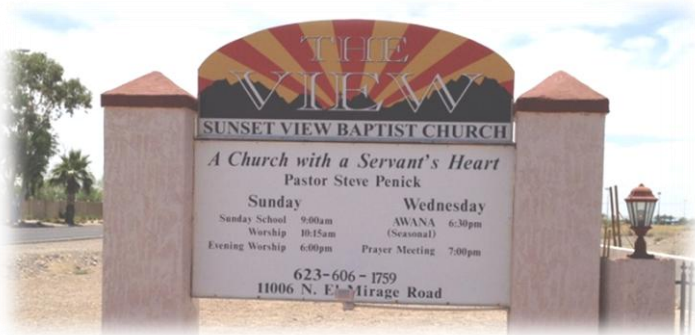
Since my last letter I've reconnected with someone that was pivotal in my life. Dr. Charlie Martin (AKA. Brother Charlie) was my pastor for the first decade of my Christian life. He pastored First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, where I first trusted in Christ, learned to witness to



Dr. Charlie Martin

others, served as a deacon, and was ordained as a pastor. Brother Charlie now pastors Bethel Baptist Church in Vilas, North Carolina. In addition to getting caught up on what God was doing in our lives, Brother Charlie invited me to go 4 wheeling with a group of men from His church. We had a awesome time, and I got to meet some great guys.

As the International Training Director for CrossWay International, I am responsible not only for conducting training events for pastors overseas, but also for helping churches train their members to share the Gospel clearly. One of Satan's strategies to keep people from accepting eternal life as a free gift of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9) is to muddy up the Gospel message. CrossWay International is on the front line of the battle to fight against this threat. As a pastor I learned that a mist in the pulpit produces a fog in the pews. When it comes to Christians sharing their faith with unbelievers, we must all be careful not to leave people in the fog.



Earlier this month I had the opportunity to visit Sunset View Baptist Church in El Mirage, Arizona. Their pastor, Steve Penick, was the best man at my wedding back in 1976. At the time Steve and I were engineering students in Florida, and had no real interest in any kind of ministry work. After graduation we lost contact with each other. About a year ago, my mother asked me whatever happened to Steve, so I did a quick search on the Internet. I was amazed to find that Steve was a pastor like myself. When Steve learned that I was moving into mission work, he invited me to preach and teach a seminar. Through a gift of frequent flyer tickets, the Lord made it all come together.



Preaching at Sunset View

As we spent a few days together getting caught up on the last 35 years and catching a few trout, I was amazed at all the similarities in our lives. We both like fly fishing, we and our wives had been active in the Awana children's ministry, both our wives were medical professionals, and we both had one son and one daughter. It seemed as if I'd found my long lost twin brother (even though we look as different as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito). **But the neatest thing that God did in our renewed relationship is to call**

Steve and a member of his church to go with me this fall to Ethiopia. While it was great fun for me to see Steve again, God had a bigger purpose in it.



Pastor Steve Penick

Speaking of the Ethiopian mission trip, in addition to a Pastors Conference, the team will also include medical professionals, who will be staffing CrossWay International's medical clinic in the city of Meki. Although there are about 60,000 people in Meki and the surrounding area, there are no other medical services available. While God has put an outstanding team together for this trip, there is one glaring hole. **We don't yet have a doctor. Please pray that God brings us this key member soon.**



Meki Clinic



Marcia and Mom

Many of you have asked me how my wife, Marcia, is doing and how she likes her new job. Since moving to Boerne in April, Marcia has been working in the Emergency Room at St. Luke's Hospital in San Antonio. She's working the 3 PM to 3 AM shift, which limits the amount of time we can spend together, but she is supposed to move to an 11 AM to 11 PM schedule soon. We still have a lot of boxes to unpack, but are truly enjoying our new home. There is a pasture behind the house that contains about a dozen cows, which Marcia enjoys watching from our back porch in the mornings. And she is making great progress in attracting every bird in Boerne to our backyard. Earlier this month Marcia made a quick trip to Florida to celebrate her mom's 80th Birthday. She also visited a couple of Sunday School classes that support my ministry in order to thank them personally.



Marcia's Cows

Please pray for me to continue to have opportunities to share my ministry with people that God leads across my path. For some of you this is the first prayer letter that you have received from me. Thank you for sharing your contact information with me, and I hope that what you've read has inspired you to pray for me. Others may be sensing God's call to join me on a future mission trip. I would be delighted to be able to help you fulfill that call. To those who have financially or otherwise supported my ministry, I pray that God will pour out a blessing on you. I'll write soon after returning from Nicaragua. Please contact me if I can minister to you in any way. Go to www.gocrossway.org/gary to learn more.

In Christ,

Gary P. Jones