

SPECIAL EDITION 201

Gray Greetings

Serving missionaries & indigenous church leaders to impact people with the



University of Delaware International Students

May 24, 2010

Dear Praying Friend,

It took me seven years from the time I first met Wendy until I finally asked her to marry me. Obviously, I don't make big decisions quickly! But after a two-year process of evaluation, research, consultation and prayer, Wendy and I have a big decision to announce. We have resigned from Mission To the World (MTW) effective May 31, 2010, so that I can begin serving as a campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship – International (RUF-I) at the University of Delaware. While we are deeply saddened to leave the MTW family and many dear African friends, we are quite excited about joining the RUF-I family and making many new international friends.

When our family returned from Uganda due to Chase's developmental delays, we knew a big decision regarding future ministry would have to be made. But MTW kindly asked me to remain serving on their Africa Leadership Team. They even gave me a new job description so I could limit overseas travel and time away from our young family. It has been my privilege to use the knowledge gained from my labors in African missions over the years to support our missionaries who serve in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as to encourage a new generation to consider the cause of Christ in that needy part of the world. Yet while I was glad to serve in a support role, I missed personally ministering the gospel to people on a daily basis.

Soon after arriving back in the United States, several brothers-in-Christ asked me to consider international student ministry. So with MTW's blessing I began helping out with such a ministry at the University of Delaware that was pioneered by Jim and Ande Thomas, an elder and his wife in our church. It soon became obvious this was an excellent fit for my personality, spiritual gifts, and cross-cultural ministry experience. During the last couple years it has been a pleasure to befriend and minister to a wide range of internationals who came to my college alma mater to learn English and further their academic pursuits.

The ministry has included a Wednesday evening English Conversation Class, a Friday night Bible Study, a Sunday morning English Worship Preparation Class, as well as a number of other international student special events and informal gatherings. It has been a joy to meet and grow friendships with students from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and even Africa! But it has been an even deeper joy to see some of these new friends eagerly learn about the Good News of Jesus. Just this month the Thomases saw two internationals make professions of faith in Christ, receive baptism, and join the church!

But Jim and Ande plan to eventually move closer to family. So they graciously asked me to take over the international student ministry when that time comes. Following discussions with church elders, it was decided the best way to do so would be for me to join RUF-I and transition the existing ministry into a ministry of RUF-I. This involved a thorough application process, being approved by RUF-I, and

receiving a call from my presbytery to serve as a campus minister to international students at the University of Delaware. On May 11 the presbytery unanimously approved that call. I plan to attend New Campus Minister Orientation for RUF-I from June 7 to 11. After that I am eager to keep learning the ropes from Jim and Ande, as well as to begin serving full-time in international student ministry.

While we certainly still need to send missionaries overseas, I have been impressed by how the Lord of the Nations is bringing the world to our country. Well over half a million international students are currently studying at universities across the United States! Many of these students come from countries that prohibit missionaries and forbid any communication of the gospel. Yet such barriers evaporate when international students arrive in our country. Eager to make American friends, practice English, and learn about our culture, these students are happy to meet Christians. When we love and befriend them, they are often open to hearing about our Savior and attending our churches. It is an incredibly strategic ministry!

Yet like a missionary, a campus minister to international students requires the financial support of churches and individuals. In order to transition from MTW to RUF-I we need our current supporters to continue their giving, as well as new folks to join our support team. Since we returned to the States, we experienced a significant drop off in support from a number of churches and a few individuals. Coupled with a higher cost of living in the U.S. than in rural Uganda, we are now facing about a \$3,000 a month deficit in order to meet our projected budget. I realize these are not the best economic times to be raising support. But I firmly believe international student ministry is a worthy investment to help build Christ's global and eternal Kingdom. So I ask, would you please prayerfully consider whether the Lord of the Nations would have you stay or become a new one of our ministry financial partners? We would deeply appreciate it!

For those of you who would like to move your financial giving from our MTW account to our new RUF-I account, here's what you need to do. If you have been giving through Electronic Funds Transfers to MTW, those transfers will automatically stop on May 31. If you have been giving through any other method of payment, please stop sending any more gifts now.

To begin giving to our RUF-I account, please write a check to "Reformed University Fellowship" and send it to: 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 104, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. Should you wish to give through Electronic Funds Transfers, please include a note with your check, requesting to be enrolled in RUF's EFT program, and stating the amount of monthly support you would like to give. Just write "Rick & Wendy Gray" on your check's memo line to insure it is credited to the proper account. If you have any questions about giving to RUF, just call Bonnie Standridge in the RUF office at 678-825-1070.

In closing, Wendy and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for so faithfully supporting the Lord's work through us in Africa down through the years. We also are deeply grateful for the way you have stood with us during the trials of Grant's and Chase's medical challenges. As our family looks forward to this new chapter of life and ministry, we would love to continue the journey together with you!

Still Yours in Christ's Great Commission,



Rick, Wendy, Grant, Aidan and Chase

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Ministry Core Values

1) Believe in a BIG Savior. 2) Depend upon God in prayer. 3) Stay in the Scriptures. 4) Champion the gospel of grace. 5) Love. 6) Repent. 7) Listen. 8) Keep learning. 9) Be accountable. 10) Wait for the Spirit's working. 11)