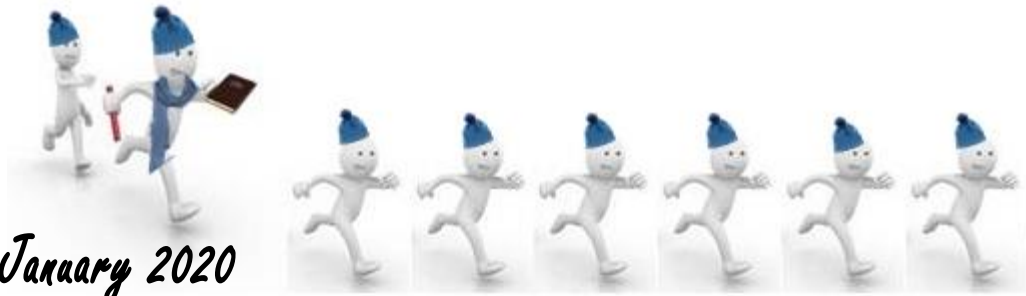


Grossman Prayer Letters

January 2020



THE RELAY

This letter is difficult to write. The danger is that it may appear to be drawing attention to something I have done. **Please look past the vessel and see how God works in the ordinary events of life.** I hope it will give you **opportunity to give God praise** as well as **encourage you** as you go about your daily lives.

Having an occupation where I am immersed in “making disciples”, it is easy for me and others to dismiss or diminish the everyday circumstances and events around us, counting only obvious ministry events and occupations as valuable. Yet, Scripture is very clear that the most important aspects of our human life boil down to loving God with ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength and loving our neighbor as ourselves. That opens wide the number of opportunities and events as we go about our daily lives to join God on His mission of drawing people into a saving relationship with Jesus.

My personal devotions in the last few weeks and months have emphasized how drawing closer in relationship with Jesus allows His “living water” of the Spirit to flow through me. It is not about my effort, but about an overflowing of grace and love that comes as I am connected to the vine. My occupation puts me in contact with many circumstances where I get to love my neighbor from the abundance he has given me. But this is not limited to my time in Liberia. Each and every day you and I have opportunities to share that life-giving water with a thirsty soul--maybe a neighbor, co-worker, or family member.

Here are a few examples of how that has looked recently in my life. Again, I don't share these to draw attention to my actions, but to what God was doing as I acted in the moment. At the time, I didn't even know the impact I was having. I am hoping this gives

you courage and hope to be faithful in the everydayness of life.

When I lived in Liberia in the Bandi area as a young single gal, a young high school boy lived in my house. In exchange for school fees, he cooked, cleaned and took care of the house. Later, when we had to live in Monrovia on account of the war, we reconnected



James and his wife Sangei

again. I was now married and with children. I had other helpers. I wasn't sure what I could really do for him. Besides, why didn't his big, extended family do something for him? But I had him help as often as I could. He would cook for the review committee when

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. John 7:38

PRAY

Praise: A year ago, the Gola New Testament was at the typesetters. Now it is on a ship making its way to Liberia, and we are preparing for a celebration dedication which is set for March 8, 2020.

Pray: for Liberians as they struggle with a broken economy. Banks have run out of money. Pray that these struggles will send them running to Jesus for a treasure far more valuable. Pray that we also will do the same.


Who I am

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "TELL THEM." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship greatly.

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Designate *Grossmann ministry*

we met on weekends. I often felt bad that I couldn't do more and sometimes because he asked for more. We may have paid some school fees. Then I lost touch with him for years. I thought he might even have been killed in the war. I was blessed in March 2019 to reconnect. James was ecstatic. He couldn't contain himself as he shared how he is now married, educated, and financially stable. He helped me understand that he was just another child to his father who had so many wives and children he was not able to take care of them. He said his time with me was a critical period in his life. He stayed strong in the faith and completed his education. Those years we were not in contact, he worked with the UN training people in conflict management all over the world and received a distinguished service award. They even made a short documentary about his work in war-torn Liberia. What a blessing to see this successful man and his joy! At the time he calls critical, I wasn't even sure I was doing the right thing.

Another man thanks me every time I see him for my children and his children. I honestly don't even remember helping him in any way, but he insists we did.

While I was away from LBT, I taught at a local community college for about six years. I had a variety of students ranging from high school to almost retired, from studious to struggling, from poor to wealthy. Meeting them in their places of need was a challenge. One morning, we were having a quiz that was crucial for a particular student. She showed up with baby in tow, something we didn't encourage. She explained her circumstances; she would take the test and leave, but she really wanted to pass the class. After asking for any objections from other students, we all agreed for her to take that quiz. She passed both the quiz and the class. I had forgotten about this until about a year ago when she reached out to me on social media after searching for me. Then she told me what that day did for her. She went on to succeed in a career and was now in a healthy married relationship. She attributes where she is now to God but remembers that small act of kindness that I had forgotten about.

Over Christmas break, we asked a neighbor girl to spend a few days with us. We had a lot of fun playing games, visiting family, and worshipping together. Her family never goes to church. She shared she didn't know the meaning of the word nativity. She doesn't know the song "Joy to the World." She doesn't read Jesus books as she calls them. I hope she saw the love of Jesus shine in all the people she met. I hope it was a seed that will produce good fruit in her life now and in the future, reaching even into the lives of her family. We don't know how or when the fruit will ripen as that is God's work. But what fun to be a part of it!

Last year, I traveled and reconnected with so many of you. Your kindness, generosity, encouragement, and prayers recently and extended back through the years have blessed me greatly. They have blessed others as well. I'm quite sure you all have shared God's love with many people in your ordinary or not so ordinary everyday lives--perhaps in ways you don't even remember and for some whom you may not meet until heaven.

In joy-filled service with you,

Becky

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal 6:9.