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Inside this Issue

- 1 What is ReachOut?
- 1 God is speaking...
- 1 Targets
- 2 Money Matters
- 2 Light Bulbs
- 3 Service Opportunities
- 4 Reminders
- 4 Quick Quote

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ReachOut

What is ReachOut?

The creation of this newsletter has really been on my heart the past few weeks. ReachOut is a newsletter that is being distributed as a tool to communicate what is taking place in the ministry that God is creating in my life. In upcoming editions, there will be testimonies, articles, commentaries, letters, prayer focuses, and various informational topics to help gain insight about what God is doing in the world around us. A secondary goal of this newsletter will be to get its readers to a point of involvement through spiritual growth. God has a plan and a purpose for each one of our lives. I look forward to you joining me in this adventure on which God is sending us.

God has a plan and a purpose for each one of our lives.

Has God given you a passion for a particular ministry or to reach certain people? Follow that lead and use it to make a plan for how you can share His message of grace and salvation as you ReachOut. ❖

God is speaking...

As many of you know, I lost my job last October. I had prayed for and had truly seen God's hand in placing me in this job. Of course my first question was, "Why is this happening?" I quickly learned I was looking in all the wrong directions for the answer. I came to the realization that if I truly saw God's hand in placing me in the job, then I should

be asking Him, "Why?" Once I had properly asked, it was not long before I understood that God had much more in store for my life.

If any of you know my wife, Suzanne, you know that she has a true passion for missions. However, this is not a passion that I had shared. In April of 2003, I made a commitment to her that I would be open to God's movement in my heart towards missions. I said this thinking, "I am not going to leave a job that God has placed me in." Well as I mentioned before, God removed the barrier to my



Continued on Page 2

Targets

In this edition, I am going to list some of the ministries, people groups, and countries that I plan on describing in later issues of this newsletter.

Ministries:

Friends of Refugees – Clarkston, GA

Whirlwind Missions – Atlanta, GA

Impact Gwinnett – Atlanta, GA

Hands of Christ – Duluth, GA

Pregnancy Resource Center – Duluth, GA

DDM – Duluth, GA

Continued on Page 3

obedience.

November was Missions Emphasis Month at our church. I decided that I needed to look at missions work with a more open mind. I participated in our community missions' day, dinners with local and international missionaries, and missionary speaking engagements. I was totally thinking that this was not going to be my cup of tea, because I was not in my traditional comfort zone. My heart was rerouted in those few weeks.

In December I decided it was time to discuss what was going on with my pastor. After about a two-hour conversation, it was obvious that God was calling me. I was challenged to go through Rick Warren's, *The 40 Days of Purpose*. I am hoping to glean from this experience a new insight into what God

has planned for my life.

Suzanne and I decided to go through this process together. Our daily plan of going through *The Purpose Driven Life* is:

1. Read the daily lesson separately in the morning.
2. Write down our thoughts.
3. Discuss together how the lesson pertained to our lives.
4. Pray together about the lesson and the process that we are going through.

We were also tasked with finding two or three people each that we could reveal what is taking place and ask them to pray for us as we go through this discovery. We have called on them and others to pray for us. I hope this newsletter will be a way to keep everyone informed. We are currently

still in the process of completing the 40 days. I look forward to revealing what God is telling us in the coming months.

If you have struggled with God's purpose for your life, I would challenge you to go through "The 40 Days of Purpose." Make sure that you document in some type of journal your thoughts and anything God is telling you.

I still have so many questions. It seems that every time a question is answered there are 10 more in its place. What will the form of my ministry be? How will I act out God's call in a tangible way? I am still trying to seek God's vision in these matters. But I am clear: God has called me, and I am responding as faithfully as I can. It is truly incredible to look back and see how far the Lord has taken us in just a few months. ❖

Richard Eason

Money Matters

It's Tax Time Again. Are you dreading preparing your tax returns this year? Well I maybe able to help. I am offering to prepare individual income tax returns for free. The only thing that I ask is that you make a contribution to the "Great Commission" offering at First Baptist Duluth in the amount of what you would have paid to have your taxes prepared. If you are interested, please contact me at freereturns@aol.com.

Contributions should be made out to **First Baptist Duluth** and sent to:

Great Commission Offering
First Baptist Duluth
2809 Highway 120
Duluth, GA 30096

Tax Tip

If you are like many of us who were without a job for part of 2003, you may have collected unemployment compensation to help pay the rent and put food on the table. Historically, unemployment compensation was meant to provide a cash-flow floor to keep you off welfare. But welfare is a state expense. So, it's not a major concern of the IRS. Here's the bad side. The IRS wants a piece of your unemployment check. Unemployment is taxed like any other ordinary income. If you elected not to withhold for taxes on your unemployment check then you will owe tax on the unemployment compensation.

Light Bulbs

Christian media reaches more adults than churches

A greater number of U.S. adults experience the Christian faith through Christian media than attend Christian churches according to a new nationwide survey by the Barna Research Group. The rise in Christian radio is actually creating quite a stir among the more liberal National Public Radio stations. Religious stations are knocking NPR stations in some areas from the airwaves at what The New York Times called an alarming trend. Christian entrepreneurs have been diligent in their efforts to raise private capital to purchase "full-power" stations on the low end of the FM dial, once considered NPR turf.

Source: *Barna Research*, July 2, 2002 and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, October 16, 2002 ❖

Christians and Technology

Most Americans have spent a growing percentage of their income to link themselves with the outside world just within the last three years. Today many Americans are paying well over \$200 a month for services that allow them to watch TV, make phone calls, listen to the radio and use the Internet. And they're spending only about half as much as they say they would be willing to pay for technologies that would fit their needs, according to a Barna poll studying Americans high-



tech habits.

The poll revealed that 59 percent of Christians have home Internet access – the same percentage as non-Christians.

56 percent of all adults own a DVD player (56 percent Christians, 55 percent non-Christians). 28 percent of all adults own a satellite dish (29 percent of Christians, 27% of non-Christians). 65 percent of Americans own cell phones (68 percent of Christians, 64 percent of non-Christians).

With the increasing rise of home technology, there is concern about the growing number of moral choices Christians will face. The differences between Christians and non-Christians are indistinguishable, because of the lack of consistent teaching and leadership regarding the proper role of technology in the life of a Christian, according to David Kinnamen, Vice President of the Barna Research Group. He suggests that Christians need to sufficiently consider the expectations-both good and bad-technology creates and satisfies among its users. Imagine the impact Christians can have on the world if they learn to use technology to serve Christ and share him with others.

Other technologies that were discussed in the Barna survey with their market penetration for all American adults include:

- Digital Cameras – 36%
- GPS System for cars – 8%
- Home Theater System – 32%
- Desktop Computer – 57%
- Laptop/notebook Computer – 23%
- Palmtop Computer – 14%

Source: *The New York Times*, April 10, 2003, *Baptist Press*, April 4, 2003 and *Barna Research*, April 2, 2003 ❖

Continued from Page 1

People Groups:

Sudanese “Lost Boys”

Somali Bantu

Philippines Sangil

Countries:

Brazil

Iraq

Mongolia

These targets are areas in which you can pray for the Spirit’s movement in the lives of the people groups, countries, or persons impacted through these ministries. I plan to go through a high level description of a target and let you know of resources where you can find more information and what you can do to assist.

Hopefully, you will gain insight to focus your prayers on the needs of the targets that are highlighted in each newsletter. ❖

Service Opportunities

Please view

www.geocities.com/reachoutmissions for updated Service Opportunities

July 2004

World Changers

Refurbishment Construction

World Changers construction projects are for Christian youth across North America. Projects include painting houses, replacing roofs, and other refurbishment construction work. Email getreachout@aol.com for more information.

July 2004

World Changers – Norcross, GA
Refurbishment Construction

World Changers community projects allow Christian youth to be exposed to an exciting blend of community ministries and construction opportunities. Email getreachout@aol.com for more information.

2004

Whirlwind Missions

Thur 4:00-6:00pm, Adelaide Park
After School Tutoring

First Baptist Church of Duluth in conjunction with Whirlwind Missions is providing after-school tutoring to the residents of Adelaide Park Apartments. The tutoring is every Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm. Email getreachout@aol.com for more information.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

**2004
Pregnancy Resource Center
Donations for newborns**

Contact PRC of Gwinnett at:
1658 Lawrenceville Hwy.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-338-1622

**2004
Friends of Refugees
Clothes Closet - Tutoring**

Contact FOR at 404-226-3843 for
more information.

**2004
Hands of Christ
Food Pantry**

Contact HOC at 770-623-9563 for
more information.

**See our web site for more
opportunities!**

Reminders

Creation of Initial Web Site

The initial web site creation for the delivery of the ReachOut newsletter and Daily Reflections Web Journal has been completed. The site, www.geocities.com/reachoutmissions, is designed around the initial philosophy of being a distribution tool for ReachOut publications only. I am already working on upgrading the site and address as God's clarifies his vision for my life.

Do You Know Someone Who Would be Interested?

Do you know someone who would be interested in this newsletter or the ReachOut web site? Please send their

name and email address to getreachout@aol.com. I will send them an email describing the purpose for the newsletter and web site with links and directions on how to use them.

Quick Quote

"In the next 365 days 2.3 million Americans and 54 million people around the world will die without knowing Christ. Is anybody going to heaven because of you?"

-Rick Warren, author of The Purpose-Driven Life (Zondervan, 2002)

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