

"Turning Your Dreams Into Reality"

June 2003

Time has flown by this year!

April 26th celebrated my first anniversary in full-time ministry.

June 3rd was my first anniversary living abroad in Germany.

Topics

- Ministry in France
- Cooking for YWAM and Divine Connections
- European Prayer Conference in Bonn
- Travel to US Pictures

Odds and Ends

- Prayer Card Attachment
- My Trip Back to America
- FSM Fax Number Change

Current and Upcoming Events

- Trip to Mongolia
- John Rood/European Union Expert Meeting

Ministry in France

In early March, I had the opportunity to assist a ministry in France that works with the French and Muslim community. Their work also involves the coordination of the "40 Days of Prayer" booklets that involve the Christian community praying for the Muslims during Ramadan.

The entire week turned out to be a tremendous opportunity to help this ministry organize and expand their outreach. It also gave them the opportunity to plan some long-term goals. They have been quietly dedicated to this ministry for over twelve years. Because of current world situation, there has been an increased interest in Islam and their beliefs. More importantly, there has also been an increased desire on how to reach this group with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.



Cooking for YWAM

Ministry comes in many forms. Not only did I have the opportunity to use my business analyst skills in France, but also utilized my cooking and cleaning skills. It turned out to be a God-thing.

The YWAM'ers needed temporary help because they did not want to pull someone from their team out of a week-long seminar that required the presence of them all. Importing temporary kitchen help allowed all of the YWAM'ers to attend the meetings without some of them having to miss a few hours each day preparing lunch while the meetings continued.

My American cooking skills were clearly lacking compared to the inherent skills of a French cook. Probably the best thing I did was slice the bread, make sure nothing burned, and set the tables. Yes, there was one day that I dried dishes. No task is too small. It truly was a blessing to serve them and the Lord at the same time. As it turned out, there was a hidden blessing in being obedient. Read about it in the Current and Upcoming Events department under *Trip to Mongolia*.



Missionary Sabine Hutchison (the real French cook), Sabine's daughter Elena, and Edith Tellenbach (YWAM Base Camp Director) in the reception area of the YWAM house in France.

"Can I burn fish sticks?"

Not in the presence of a real French cook in the kitchen. The commercial-size stove easily fits inside the area of the original kitchen cooking fireplace of this 15th Century kitchen. The original cooking fireplace is huge, being about six feet tall by five feet wide and three feet deep.

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European Prayer Conference in Bonn

Rhema Germany hosted their biggest annual event at the Bad Godesberg Stadthalle, April 3-4. The Stadthalle is the German equivalent of the local civic center. The two-day event centered on teaching the practical application of intercessory prayer. The guest speaker was Patsy Camenti from Singapore. Mrs. Camenti headed the prayer team at my Bible school in Tulsa, Oklahoma for a number of years. During my time there, I attended prayer school five days a week, which blessed me by elevating my prayer life. It was tremendous to learn from Patsy.

My responsibility for the EPC was to create and direct the video projected media during the conference. This was the first attempt to try this for the conference. First year Bible student, Bernard Jansen and I brought various informational slide ideas forth from inception to completion—creating scripture, information, and thought provoking ideas for projection before and after each session. Additionally, we created maps of various European Union and Middle Eastern countries that were projected. During prayer, this tool had a tremendous impact for the audience in visualizing the location of various cities and countries.



Guest speaker Patsy Camenti (left) and German translator Monika Wagner (right) explaining the practical application of intercessory prayer.



Pastor John Gruenwald from Rhema Bibel Gemeinde in Bonn Germany opening the European Prayer Conference in prayer.



We were blessed with nearly 350 people from all over Europe who attended the two-day prayer conference in Bonn.

Left: Taking a few minutes at the beginning of each session for some praise and worship.

Bible Bookmark/Prayer Card Attachment



Pamala Smith at GateView Ministries, created a tremendous little outreach tool for First Step Ministries, Inc. It is a Bible bookmark and/or prayer card. Please find it attached to the e-mail with this newsletter. It will open with Adobe Acrobat, where you will see both the front and back of the card. If you would like to have one or several for your congregation, please e-mail FSM's Administrator, David Fyke at dfyke@cox.net. David will be happy to mail out as many as you would like to have.

As always, I am so thankful for your prayerful love and support.
“The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.”
 Proverbs 11:25

Fax Number Change

Please note that we have a new fax number for the
U.S. Office
 of First Step Ministries, Inc.
1.623.842.0408





*“Walk, walk, walk!”
That’s all I seem to do.
Now its even for fun.
It was a beautiful spring day
in the desert.*

My Trip Back to America

When planning my recent trip to the U.S., I wondered if I had allowed too much time there. Seven weeks later, it was over and I was back in Germany wondering where the time went. Actually, all I have to do is look at my calendar—it reminds me. Please accept my apologies if I didn’t get a chance to see you while I was there.

My time in the States was very productive. The Lord opened many new doors to share the vision of First Step Ministries, Inc. I was able to show a PowerPoint presentation on my work and life in Europe this past year.

The first two weeks in May were spent in Florida driving up and down the coast, visiting my sons Shawn and William and my granddaughter Antonella

(Shawn’s 2 ½ years old baby girl). This is the first time she really will begin to know who I am.

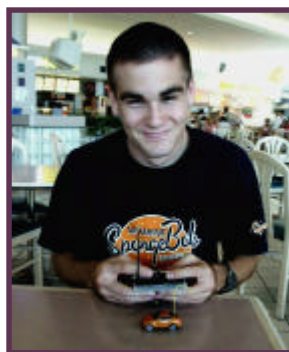
In between Jacksonville and Winter Haven, I was able to visit Daytona Beach and a ministry called Christian Adventures International. It is always a blessing to see my friends there.



*Shawn my oldest son, the “second best” barbeque’r in the Blakeslee family.
Let’s see, who would be the best?
That would be the one that taught him...me.*



*Antonella and “Papa” just hangin’ out, helping her daddy work on the truck.”
She IS my son’s daughter.*



*William
(my youngest son)
doing what boys
(big and small)
do all the time
...play with cars.
This is the tiniest
remote control car
I have ever seen.*



At Jim and Lori Cline’s house in Sun Lakes, Arizona. We had a powerful evening of just praise worship with David Jorgenson on flute and Bill Bates on keyboard.

Later that evening, they prayed for an increased anointing in the area of music in my life. I will receive that in Jesus’ name.



Above: At GateView Ministries’ GateKeepers Bible Study in Tempe, Arizona, where I got blessed by being prayed for and with a chance to share the Word and the vision of First Step Ministries, Inc.

Below: Kelly (singing) and Cary (guitar) Reif lead worship as we started the GateKeepers Bible Study. This home Bible study was even high tech; notice the song lyrics on the TV screen.

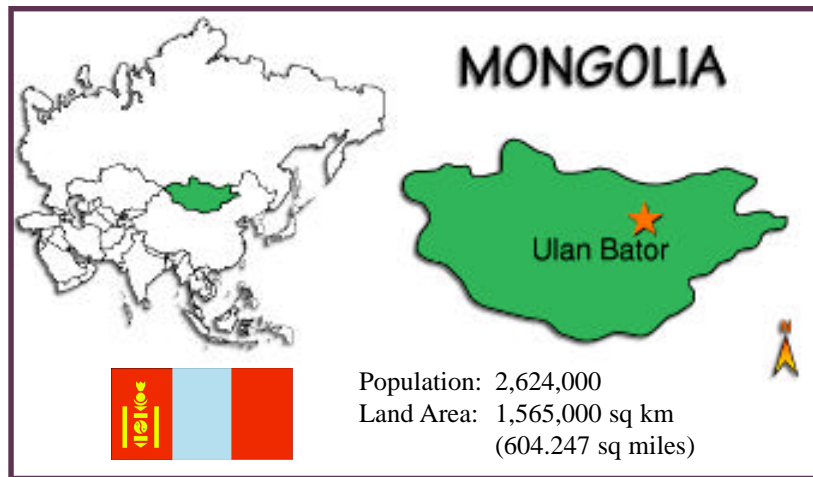


Trip to Mongolia

The Lord does order our steps and there are not any “just coincidences.” After helping in the kitchen at the YWAM Base Camp in France, I randomly picked a place to sit and have lunch. As it turned out, I ended up sitting next to a Swiss woman, Edith Tellenbach, the Director of the YWAM Base Camp. She told me that she led an outreach to Mongolia last year. I have to admit that Mongolia has NEVER been on my “Top Ten” or even “Twenty” list of places to visit. But, it seems that the Lord had another plan. Our first conversation was interesting; but nothing really jumped out that made me feel like I should even consider going to Mongolia.

Within less than a week and after viewing a short video a number of times, something started stirring in my heart to consider going. Because of my scheduled trip to the States, I thought that I might become involved in next year’s trip. After all, Edith and the team were leaving for Mongolia while I was in the U.S. At least, that is what I thought was going to happen. Edith mentioned that I could come with a second team that was leaving from Paris, France on June 6th that would be in Mongolia until June 28th.

I didn’t know what I could do to help. However, she quickly eliminated that concern and explained that the second team was going to analyze the needs of the nomadic tribes and try to create a strategy to reach not only the nomad people; but also the whole of Mongolia with the Gospel. Well, I guess that eliminated any concerns I had of what I could do to help. Strategy and Planning? Me? I can talk strategy and planning.



For the duration, the conditions are serious camping—living in a tent, sleeping in a sleeping bag, no showers or real toilet facilities. We will be eating what the nomadic families do although I am “smuggling” in some Power Bars just in case. It should be interesting. The few extra pounds I gained in America from eating my fill of Mexican food and steaks will probably disappear quickly—an added blessing in subtraction.

If you think this is a romantic adventure, I can assure you that it is not. Some friends in Phoenix have relatives that have gone on three mission trips to Mongolia. After seeing their pictures and hearing their stories, all the romance of this adventure is gone.

More importantly, I have a desire to be obedient to the Lord and fulfill what He has asked and confirmed that I should do by going on this trip. Sleeping on the ground with no facilities is not fun; but being obedient to the Lord and a blessing to those people is. If you have ever just gone out on a limb because you truly believe that God is in it, you can understand the deep internal spiritual satisfaction He will give in return for obedience.

The Lord always honors our free will. I could just say no. However, I could not even think of doing that after knowing in the deepest part of my spirit that He really wants me to go and fulfill this part of my destiny. You wouldn’t either.

I will put a newsletter together showing all the pictures possible of Mongolia and the people to whom we are ministering. If you feel that you would like to contribute to this project, it would be a welcomed blessing. You can send it to my post office box in Phoenix.

The European Union

Early in March, I was put in touch with an American missionary, John Rood. He has lived in Brussels for years. John has become a recognized expert on the European Union. We hit it right off when we both found out that we were fellow Arizonians. John is very interested in meeting with me about doing some planning and strategy work for him and his ministry. He believes strongly in the mission of First Steps Ministry, Inc. and has offered to open any doors needed in Europe. It will be interesting to see what the Lord does with this connection.

At this point, I am not sure when I will make it to Brussels. The idea of staying home for a few weeks and not living out of a suitcase sounds good. But, where He leads I’ll follow.