



Points of Interest:

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God's Calling

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God's Calling 1

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Staying in Touch

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Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord! Things are a bit hectic at this moment in India; Sam is very busy with college enrollment and recruitment; several maintenance problems involving plumbing; and one very, major one, our well running dry because of the lack of rain in the area over an extended time. So, I decided to pick up the pen and put down some thoughts on the journey we've been on for 42 years with the Lord involving GHI!



God's Callings

Please permit me to take a few minutes to testify to you of my 53-year history with God and His callings to us? The other day, **a friend called** and said, I've got a good place to eat catfish. (Did I ever tell you I like catfish?) I answered, "I'll be by to get you at 11am", so the race was on. We were there by 11:20 and by 12:15 we had finished a great meal, (he paid) and discussed all the worlds problems, solved none, and I brought him back to his house. So, it's obvious that a calling preceded blessing! Moving on...

You must know there are many callings as you begin to walk with God. **My first calling** came as a result of being confronted with my sinfulness and my need for a Savior. I was guilty and I decided to settle out of court, realizing that Jesus had taken my sentence upon himself and did something for me that I couldn't do for myself. He presented Himself to His Father as my substitute and died in my place for my sins and then rose from the dead, fulfilling what was written of Him.

For whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved, Rom. 10:13.

From that point in 1966, little by little, I began to understand that there would be many **more callings** as I began to walk with Him, (Luke 9:23). A few years passed and I slowly began to realize that God was far more interested in **my acknowledgement of His person**, than my performance for Him.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb.11:6

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Less than two years after I was saved, my pastor took me to his side and taught me how to win people to Christ, and it was -"once caught no escape". I became an evangelist before I even knew what an evangelist was! I also became acquainted with the joy of obedience. God said, "go tell, I'm not willing that any should perish!" Who knew, I was becoming someone that I never was before, an evangelist. Certainly not me!

So, as this new person in me began to grow, like David, I found myself calling out to Him more and more as I found myself in my early years with Him, in impossible situations that only He could handle. Love was growing within me for my new found Father, as I learned I could call on Him:

Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. Ps.102:2

In my 12th year as a Christian, **another call came**. It was to leave our Tennessee home, move to Texas and work with Manley Beasley, as an evangelist in training. Both our families thought our cheese had slipped off the cracker. So, in spite of going out, not know whether, we pressed on, **knowing that God loved us** and was acting on our behalf, accomplishing His purposes in us (Phil 1:6); He was introducing us to the life of faith:

I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. Ps. 89:2

Well, I could go on for years bragging on God, His callings, His love, His faithfulness but let me share an incident on the journey with our Father. After nearly five years, working with Manley, and after ministering twice in England, God gave me a promise from **Isaiah 43:18,19** to move to England:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

In 1984, we sold our house, our possessions and moved to England with four suitcases and few possessions and no real promises of support—but God! The ministry flourished with His power and provision and yet in 1986, after two years, **God called** us back to Texas. To be very honest, we were conflicted as to why, but we moved ahead. We assessed the costs of moving along with other ministry obligations we already had in our



diary and the total came to \$6,600. (You should know that since we had started living by faith, we made a covenant to give the Lord not just a tithe but 20% of what He brought to us; so, in actual fact, we really needed \$8,250. So, \$8,250 less 20% (\$1,650) is \$6,600!)

A few weeks after committing this to the Lord, the mail came through the door slot and I brought it up to Dottie, along with our coffee for our morning quiet time. There were two envelopes. The first was a check from a group of friends at First Baptist Euless TX for \$750; but then there was this little 5" x 5", note-size envelope from some friends in Arkansas that we hadn't heard from in several years. We opened it and read the card; it simply said, "thought you might need this." It was a check for \$7,500. Hallelujah, \$8,250! What a confirmation that in spite of our feelings regarding leaving England (and a host of new friends), we heard the call and got in step with the Spirit! We were hearing God correctly! You might be interested in knowing that several months before the check was sent to us that our friends wanted to tithe their bonus from December to several missionaries and other ministries. They actually wrote the checks out but each time they got ready to send them, God would never give them a peace about this. Finally, in March, they agreed they must send them and after prayer they agreed that they should send the second tithe (first to their church) (\$7,500) to us and God paid the bills for us to return home!

Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

For the next few years, God seemed silent. We joined North Richland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth TX and waited on the Lord. 1986 quickly rolled into 1987, which took us to Germany for some interim pastorate work, helping old friends have a break! But in mid 1987, two major surgeries came my way. For the next two years (1988, 89), I was doing revival meetings across the USA and more mission work abroad. There was fruit but I hadn't heard God's call about the next chapter to come. We waited while we served with our gifts at NRHBC.

(I should say that from my call in 1978 onward, I joined a few evangelist friends of ours, to do evangelistic, missionary work with nationals across the world in Haiti, India, Japan, Korea, England, Kenya and Malawi. It brought a lot of pleasure in learning to do open air evangelism, seeing thousands come to Christ and be followed up and disciplined by the local national churches.)

In December 1989, **I got a call** from Shad Williams to take his place in January on a two-week project in India. We had been working together for 11 years, off and on, whenever he needed an evangelist. By this time in my life, despite a strong burden for revival, I felt God closing the door in my heart to do revival meetings, but I didn't know why.



It was on this project that I met James Sundar as my interpreter for this work. It was intense with us preaching in schools, churches, as well as showing the Jesus Film at night in the villages. Nearly 25,000 made decision for Christ during that time and God had my attention. It was if he was pulling back the veil. I also worked with him in Kenya that spring and then back in India in July, where once again, James was my interpreter. At the end of the project, God whispered in my ear, "this is why I called you, are you in for the ride?" He saw my smile when I said yes!

From 1991 onwards, we worked with nationals in Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Korea and Kenya. In 1994, I was asked to work with a church that took 25 members to Ghana teaching them to do "open air work". It was on that project that I met Eugene Narh and Godfried Tei, two very seasoned evangelists. A short time afterwards, we brought them under the GHI umbrella and began to empower and equip them in order to better facilitate the work there.

From that point on, I was out of the country working with our teams on an average of 6-8 times a year. After I turned 65 in 2008, my back really began to fail. I slowed down a little but, in the fall of 2011, surgery was required on my low back. It was at this point that long haul, overseas flights were no longer an option. However, in the last few years, I began to fly to India to meet with the staff, pastors, evangelist, wardens and support staff, just to encourage them. The truth is they encourage me far more than I do them.

The GHIndia team planted their first church in 2002. In 2003, James started a very small college, later to be known as Harvesters Theological College and Seminary. In 2005, after the Christmas tsunami of 2004, we started The Father's Home. Today, there are over 95 staff, pastors, evangelists, students and orphans that live and operate from our campus. Beginning with James and then onward with Sam, there are now 163 worship centers that weren't there in 2002, to God be the glory.

God calls and where he guides, He provides. It's not hard to understand. He's looking for people who will go and trust Him to be in them what He was to those whose names are written in Hebrews 11, and the original 12!

He has also **called** friends like you who have heard God's call to believe in missions and the ministry of GHI and support it, so the work can multiply in the years to come. Thank you!



Please pray for Sam as he faces daily, the multiplied challenges that come his way. For Sam and Fay and us, Dottie joins me in sending our love to each of you....*Mack*

Important!
**Please pray with us about our need for water
and a new well in India!**