JESUS

SIGNS FOR HOPE - DECEMBER 2016

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is well-pleased."
Luke 2:14

Philippines & Vietnam 2017 Adventure Trip

The SFH 2017 Adventure Trip to the Philippines (l) and Vietnam (r) is set. Praise God, Charles will be joining me! Please pray and ask God to show you if you should join this trip. This trip will be a mixture of being and doing and will not just be one or the other. We will be supporting our two partner organizations in Vietnam, Orphan Voice and Central Deaf Services, and one of our Deaf adopting families in Manila, Philippines (Papadopolus family) in their adoption of Mateo and in helping to equip them to do the work God has called them to in the Philippines…orphan care. The trip dates are February 21 – March 7 at a cost of approximately $1,600 for airfare and incountry costs are about $60 per day (includes hotel, transportation and meals). A shorter option, which includes only the Vietnam portion, is available. Contact me asap for more information.

Year-end Giving!

Through the years some of you have thanked me for the reminder of year-end giving to Signs for Hope. Here it is! Remember, all donations must be made before midnight December 31, 2016. You can make secure donations online here. Mailed check donations must be dated December 2016 and must be postmarked before midnight December 31, 2016, as well. Donation receipts will be mailed for all 2016 donations in January 2017. *Thank you, Lord, for whatever you lead those reading this to give.*

I want to bring you up-to-date on where Signs for Hope stands financially as we approach the end of 2016. We held our first annual SFH ASL-Immersion Family Retreat in June. This annual retreat, which serves our families adopting deaf children needing to improve their ASL skills, cost us roughly $7,000+. Also, as I shared previously, one of our SFH families did not reimburse us for their adoption travel expenses. These two thrust us into credit card debt for which we could not pay off…until November. In early November, God clearly led our SFH board to unanimously forgive the debt the family owed us. Not long thereafter, two donations were received, which allowed us to pay in full both credit cards. No, these two donors did not know we had forgiven the debt.

ONLY GOD!

In mid-December, God touched several SFH supporters to give generously, as well. We pray specifically for this and ask you to join us. These donations give Charles the ability to join me on our adventure trip to the Philippines and Vietnam in Feb/Mar and gives both of us the ability to attend Empowered to Connect & CAFO 2017 (both in Nashville) in April and May respectively.

ONLY GOD!

Please continue to pray and ask God to touch hearts to give specifically toward our 2017 family retreat, May 30 – June 4. Families and Deaf staff have already begun committing to attending/serving and planning is underway.

There is an open invitation for you to join us at our family retreat in 2017. There are many ways you can serve. Of course, knowing sign language would be of great benefit, but if you don't our Deaf folks will still welcome you with open arms and hands and so will I. Contact me for more info.

Three Opportunities for Prayer & Support!

Fleet Family - Southeast Asia Deaf
Click here to learn more about the Fleet family, subscribe to updates and to donate. We plan to see the Fleets on our adventure trip in February/March.

Robinson Family – Honduran Orphan Care
Click here to learn more about the Robinson family, subscribe to their updates and to donate. Lord willing, I will make a visit to Honduras next fall to visit the Robinsons and Ellie.

Ellie Cecil – ASL tutor for Robinson family (adopted son, Wyatt, is deaf) & Honduran Deaf
Click here to learn more about Ellie, subscribe to her updates and to donate.

From my heart to yours…

2016 will soon be the past. 2017 will soon be the present. Only God knows what each of us will experience in 2017. Do you find that truth comforting or do you fear it? Fear is one of our nations greatest idols. We serve it all too well. Whatever your greatest fear might be, embracing God's perfect love for you and for me is the only thing that can eradicate that fear. Ask Him to release you from the grip of that evil enemy and basque in the perfect love of our God…Yahweh...throughout 2017!

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,
because fear has to do with punishment.
The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
1 John 4:18

As Christmas comes and goes, many feelings will ebb and flow much like the tides around the world. Feelings have often been blamed for many things, but you and I must realize that our feelings are truly a gift from our Creator in whose image we have been created. Yes, these emotions must come under the control of His Spirit. Our God is a relational being and with relationship…comes feelings. It is inevitable. As God allows me to share life with some of you on deep levels and you to share life with me, it is impossible for us not to feel a deeper connection. This is exactly how you and I develop that deeper connection and relationship with our triune relational God. In fact, this is what He craves from you and me. Connection. Relationship. Doing Life Together! That is the reason He came to Earth to dwell among us. To do life WITH us. And now He does life IN us!

In the year 2017, my prayer, for you and for me, is for us to become more deeply connected to our Savior and Lord than ever before. This deeper connection will lead to a deeper transformation for us that will be life changing and it will impact all those around us and be life changing for them, as well. Be assured, more connectedness to our Lord will most often come through Him orchestrating experiences and events surrounding our lives when we feel the need for more connectedness to Him. Since you and I do not always naturally seek intimacy with Him unless we "need Him", be assured He knows exactly what you and I need to make sure we have every opportunity to draw closer to Him in 2017.

My reflections on 2016 are filled with awe! Much of that awe surrounds just how much He accomplishes through His ministry of Signs for Hope. We are small in the eyes of man, but I am reminded of the song, "Little Is Much When God Is In It". He is not just in this; He is before it, behind it, beside it, below and above it. I do not know why I have been placed in this position, 'for such a time as this', but I can tell you with all honesty, I cannot do what I do without your prayers! Thank you for praying! Please do not stop praying for us in 2017! I am praying for you! Some of you do a good job of keeping me aware of your opportunities for praises and prayers…thank you. Please feel free to share with me anytime.

I love each of you, but He loves you so much more!

Becky

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