

July 2009

# the Flaming's Report



**International  
Training  
Partners, Inc.**

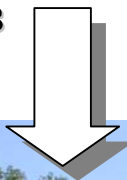
*Providing biblical training for  
Christians serving across cultures*

**special edition**

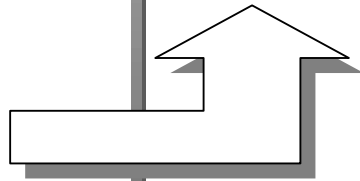
**From This**



**To This**



**Without Affecting This!**



Is it even possible? We believe it is and we are certain of God's very evident hand of engagement in our lives as we have been waiting on Him and seeking His direction. To read what is going on in our lives, turn to the next page!

Our ministry model clearly shows our involvement in training, coaching, mentoring and pastoral care. This model, while dependent to a certain extent on specific events, is more about long term processes of engaging with people and walking alongside them as they seek to do what God has created them to do. For example, yesterday Gwen spent quality time with a pastor's wife in Nepal, agonizing over some serious interpersonal issues she is facing - and finding the answers together in God's Word. I look forward to spending time today with a ministry leader in Cambodia who is concerned about how the small church plant he is leading can move forward in the right direction. Later I will interact with a ministry leader in Indonesia who is struggling to become the kind of servant leader that God's Word encourages us to be. These young Christian leaders and others like them are people we want to invest our lives into for as long as the Lord allows, to do what we can to enable them in their ministry and walk with the Lord.

Through the modern technology of voice over internet or VOIP, we can spend as much time as we need with those involved in ministry across Asia without ever leaving home, and at minimum cost. This is both an efficient as well as an effective way to encourage and exhort our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our desire to impact the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century through working closely with young ministry leaders and missionaries today is a passion which we hold dearly, as well as a greatly needed ministry. But when it comes to budget time many ministries struggle to find the funds needed for the spiritual and character development of their own people. Because of this we want and need to have funds available from our own support at times, especially for training events which lead into the longer term processes of mentoring, coaching and pastoral care.

When we transitioned into our ministry with International Training Partners two and a half years ago, one decision we needed to make was whether we could stay in Singapore on a reduced budget and still do ministry. We decided at that time that it made the most sense to stay where we were and do the best we could. These past years have been an opportunity for us to learn many things about the ministry we are involved in, but over the past months especially we have seen more and more clearly that we are simply not able to afford to live in such an expensive place as Singapore and still do ministry across Asia. It seems all our support income is going into just paying the regular bills - and even then not quite being enough.

So these past months we have been more earnestly praying and seeking God's direction in terms of what our next steps should be. We have been considering various options in Asia, but also thinking about whether it was feasible to move back to the USA and still stay engaged in our ministry here in Asia. This is the first time we have ever been able to consider going back to the States with any peace, and that has been strange to us.

As we have discussed our options with our mission leadership it has also been clear to all of us that our ministry involvements do not depend on our home base. We do need to travel for workshops. But we spend the rest of the time working on the computer and communicating with ministry leaders across Asia. While we still can do much more, we are currently coaching and mentoring ministry leaders and missionaries in Pakistan, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia and the USA.

Last week we were considering once again our dream of having a small country home somewhere in the USA to live and work from. We were also talking together about the verses in the Psalms where we are told that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. The point we were considering together was that we needed to be taking steps so that they *could* be organized by the Lord. Later that day the thought crossed our mind that we should check with Gwen's Aunt Belva to find out what she was planning to do with her place. This is the Hewitt homestead where Gwen's Grandparents Hewitt farmed and where Gwen's Mom grew up. Aunt Belva is no longer able to live there due to health reasons, and so we were curious as to what was happening with the place.

The timing of our phone call was exactly right as an auctioneer was actually scheduled to come and start the process of selling the place this week. By the end of the day, we had been told that we could have the place as our home and ministry center and suddenly instead of Singapore city-slickers we are now Nebraska farmers!

So we are modifying our plans to be in the USA over Thanksgiving and Christmas and extending our stay. We have a small shipment of personal items that we will be sending – most of our things were sent when we left TWR. We do have an extensive time of ministry planned in Asia for January through March, so we hope to get settled in as much as possible before heading back to this side of the world for that period. We expect to spend at least a third of our time traveling in Asia and the rest of our time we will continue to coach and work with ministry leaders and missionaries via Skype.

And hey! Both Gwen and I are likely to be more energized as we engage while sitting on our back deck watching deer and wild turkeys across the fields!

Stay tuned for more developments as they happen and thanks for your prayers.

With our love,

*Vic & Gwen*

