

Seeds of Hope

Newsletter of Mustard Seeds & Mountains

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Looking Back to Forge Ahead

This year of 2021 brought challenges, sorrows and comfort, disappointments and encouragement, and lots of traveling for the Wallace's. There has been sadness as Mustard Seeds' ministry in West Virginia slowly closed its doors after 28 years of serving in McDowell County. We are grateful beyond words for our faithful staff; though Lacy is no longer working for Mustard Seeds after 21 years with the ministry, his wife, Shawna continues in the office.

There were challenges as we saw some new doors of ministry open and then close as COVID rampaged across countries in the last two years, but encouragement as still other doors of ministry opened instead (Randy talks about that later in this letter).

Our greatest cause of sorrow this year was the death of Daniel Rickett, Jacque's brother, Randy's best friend, and a founding board member of Mustard Seeds and Mountains. Though we are comforted to know he is with the Lord he loved and lived for, he is sorely missed.

New Ministry Opportunities

A new development for Mustard Seeds is facilitating the ministry to the people of France of Jeremy (Elias) and Monica Wallace, currently dubbed The Button Factory Project. The former button factory, in a village in France about an hour from Paris, has been purchased, demo-ed on the interior and is awaiting an architect's appraisal for the next step of making the building usable for church meetings and community outreach. If you would like more information about the Button Factory Project, please email randy@mustardseeds.org.

An Update from Randy

Although it may not seem so, we live in a time of amazing opportunity for the church, God's people. For the first time in US history, Christianity is being viewed with hostility and groups are aligning to attack those called Christian.

I have been conducting seminars in local churches for the past year, and plan to continue into the foreseeable future, training church leaders to prepare their people for difficult times. The 8-hour, two day *The Way, The Truth, and The Life Seminars* (WTL) focus on anchoring the people of God in truths and practices that will enable them to thrive in challenging times.

The first day's training is a deep dive into the character of God and its implications for how we are to live in the world. The second day guides people into creative outreach, brainstorming and

planning to strategically reach their community. The seminars have been successful; we have seen encouraging change in individuals as well as in how churches view advancing the Kingdom of God.

The WTL Seminars calls us back to basics in following Jesus. It challenges us to go beyond only listening to sermons and singing songs in our walk with Christ. It guides us in to self-sacrificial, humble outreach to those around us who are seeking a new way to live because what they have been doing isn't working. It highlights servanthood as a foundation for reaching our neighbors and the need to truly love our neighbor, even if they hate us and want to hurt us.

Recently, I have been studying the history of revivals and studies related to revival, developing material for training congregations in the essentials and manifestations of true revival. A week-long series of meetings would train, prepare, and help launch the journey toward revival in congregations. It would explore what true revival looks like. Is it always overflowing with emotion or signs and wonders? What are the common prerequisites and practices that lead to revival? What is the purpose of revival and why should we seek it?

I'll share one essential truth about revival. It is not the seeking of experiences or wonders; it is a pursuit of God Himself. A greater knowledge of God that transforms the individual and the way that person lives in the world. It is always accompanied by a deep conviction of personal and corporate sin and the utter inability, apart from God, to remove the shame. True revival results in deep repentance and change of life direction. Revival from God magnifies the person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross and is permeated with glorifying God. People feel overwhelmed with a sense of the presence of God in their lives.

Please pray God open doors to more churches for the WTL Seminars as well as seminars on revival. I'm excited to see what God will do.

As we close the door on 2021, we open the door to 2022 and all its possibilities to love God and love our neighbors, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. May we all make the most of every opportunity!

For the King and his Kingdom,

Randy and Jacque Wallace

P.S. If you are interested in more information about *The Way, the Truth, and the Life Seminars*, or the Revival seminars, please contact Randy at randy@mustardseeds.org. If you would like more information about the Button Factory Project, please email randy@mustardseeds.org.

P.P.S. If you no longer wish to receive these letters, please email mustseed@mustardseeds.org or mail us a card at the address in the heading giving us your name and request to be removed from the list. Thank you.