

From: Mark and Debbie Blosser



Speaking Hope to the World

February 2020

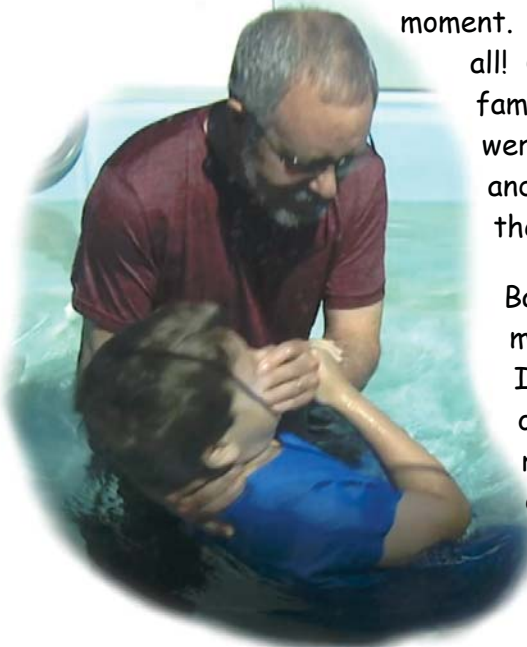
Texas, here we come! In a few days from the time of writing this, we will be starting our annual pilgrimage to LeTourneau University's mission emphasis week, where we represent TWR looking for students who want to make a difference in our world. Serving with TWR may not seem like turning the world upside down, but it does turn the world upside down for many. Or should I say, right-side up! That's exactly what Jesus did when he came to Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Wrong was made right as people accepted Him into their lives. The Bible says those who accept and believe in him become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). That is hard for nonbelievers to understand, because from their point of view, it seems they are giving up their desire to be the captains of their own ships. But the evidence shows that what rehabilitation programs fail to do, believing in Jesus accomplishes. Somehow their eyes are opened, and they see life completely different. I had a friend of mine tell me he thought that I had given up or wasted much of my life. He caught me speechless because the statement seemed absurd to me. He couldn't comprehend that actually the opposite was true.



This Christmas our home was filled with family! When it began, Debbie and I wondered if we would be able to adjust and cope with the activity whirling around us. Would we still love them when it was done?



We determined to take one day at a time and enjoy each person in the moment. We survived and even thrived on it all! Our hope was that the rest of the family felt the same toward us. We were eight in all. Everyone pitched in and did their part. Hope you enjoy the pictures!



Backing up a month, November also marked two big landmark events. I turned 70 and decided to shave off my beard to see if I still recognized myself. Debbie persuaded me to hold off a few days because of the second landmark event. Xavier, our 10-year-old grandson, had requested that I baptize him. To me, this was one of the highest honors a grandfather could be asked to do! Debbie said the cleanshaven 'Papa' just wouldn't



look right. She turned out to be right. The kids want me to grow it back! However, my mother (96) has never liked it, so I decided to try something. I went to her apartment and claimed to be the maintenance man, saying I had come to fix the problem in her apartment. She told me she never made such a request and was ready to shut the door on me. I quickly took off the hat I was wearing and barged in, saying, "But I am your son!" We had a good, long laugh!

While on the subjects of baptism and how Jesus causes change, this true story made me weep while I watched it on video! It confirms what I tried to convey in the first paragraph of this letter.



A man named Rachid met Jesus through TWR when he was a teenager. Having grown up in North Africa he came from a different religious background, and, as is often the case, was forced to leave his family's home once he became a believer. He eventually had to leave his beloved home country because it became too dangerous to continue living there as a Christ follower. But this didn't prevent him from preaching the Gospel to his country. Rachid established a satellite TV show that boldly proclaims Jesus as the one true God and urges those from different religious backgrounds to seek Him. There are many people in the countries that Rachid reaches who are not happy to hear him talk of Jesus. Death threats are frequently called into his TV program. One man called in dozens of times giving different names each time to make threats against Rachid. One day this same man called to say he had become a believer in Jesus. Rachid was suspicious at first, but his staff was able to confirm that it was genuine. The man then asked to be baptized, and the news was passed on to Rachid. Rachid decided to attend. As the man gave his testimony that day after being baptized, he began crying as he looked at Rachid and said, "I wanted to kill you, but God changed my heart. Please forgive me!" Rachid then embraced him as they both wept with tears of forgiveness, thankfulness and joy! What power!!

I'm sure similar stories we may never hear are playing out in North Korea, a country TWR is broadcasting to from our station on Guam. Presently, I'm coaching a couple from Alaska, Jeremy and Tammy Weaver, who are hoping to join our staff there. The following link is a video of them and explains what they hope to do. I think you will enjoy it!

<https://www.twr.org/global-staff/jeremy-and-tammy-weaver>

Blessings!

Mark & Debbie

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