

Good News!

"You Saved My Life!" Fay Nelson

A friend returning from the mission field came for a much anticipated visit. As I opened the door to let her and her husband in, she gave me a huge hug and said, "You saved my life!" I had several responses all at once—shock, skepticism, wonder, gratitude, and some disbelief.

She was referring to a time of catastrophic change and hurt that she and her husband had recently gone through. I had prayed for them. I had reassured them that even in their pain God was using the circumstances. I had defended them against slanderous remarks—which I could do because I had ministered with them many times under a number of circumstances and I knew their hearts and the fruit of their lives. I had seen them at their best and at their worst. I could joyfully testify of their integrity and their faithfulness and their effectiveness. And I did.

I had also been able to help make some connections—really God had already made them—that enabled a church to provide the covering they needed as they came home, sought God, and got His vision for a work far greater than they have ever done.

They left last week to return to the mission field, to implement all that God has for them and for sub-Saharan Africa.

At our farewell luncheon, she hugged me again and said, "Thank you for saving my life." We both know that God did it, not me. But He has reminded me that it was my call and my privilege to step in beside them, hold up their arms, to pray with and for them, to help

make connections, and be a joyful vehicle of God's love and restoration to them.

And He is in the process of reminding me that it is my call and privilege to do so for others. It is my passion as well. For several years we've known that Creative Ministries is in a time of transition, a time of responding to God's present and future call and figuring out with His help and that of our board how to make it work. CliffAnn and I have cried out for His answers and specific will for us, and He has answered so clearly that transition (which I generally dread) is quite clear cut and exciting beyond belief. All of those "some days" are arriving within this next year!

Africa and Thailand have been our hearts' cry for a decade, so we're somewhat surprised that the first place we will go for a significant period of time is England. The call to the children of East-the-Water is so clear, and so compelling, that we took the risk and shared our hearts with Fiona Fuhrman, the pastor with whom we have worked on a number of outreaches this past year. What God had shown us, He had also shown her and within a very few days He added to all that He had shown and revealed the beginnings of His plan.

On August first Creative Ministries will relocate to southwest England and begin an outreach in one of the most impoverished and decadent communities in the country. We'll join HOPE ministries and operate under their banner—doing all that we can to bring the Good News of Jesus' redeeming love to a community that has fewer than 1% Christians.

We'll commute back and forth a

lot—we're not leaving for good—but we know that after England we'll likely be doing similar outreaches in Thailand and in much of Africa. We are still available for bookings here, will still be active in our home church, Liberty Christian Fellowship, and will still be leading mission teams wherever God directs. Our office will remain open, our homes ready for our passing through.

But we'll be doing what God has called us to do in a place where He has already created a framework for us, established a strong ministry team for us to work with and fellowship and grow, and we'll still travel to other nations. Between now and then we're still ministering in the States,

... we go knowing
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(yes, we ARE available for whatever you need), praying, preparing and seeking God for the best ways to do what He has called us to do.

We need you more than we ever have before. We need your prayers. We need your encouragement. We need your financial assistance to minister in a country where a dollar is worth a little less than 50 cents.

This is a huge step for us—and it definitely takes us out of our comfort zones. But we go knowing it is a privilege to be called by God and trusted with this mission. And our prayer is that many people will be able to say some day that our offerings of self and ministry and encouragement helped save their lives.

Program Report

CliffAnn Perry

When Creative Ministries formed in 1978 we had a very wise man do our articles of incorporation. He wrote them with a wide variety of things we could do to share the Gospel so that we would not be limited by them as God expanded our vision. At the time we planned to do Christian Children's Television and while that consumed much of our first few years and did result in a TV show seen around the country for 10 years, it was clearly not the main reason God had us form Creative Ministries. As we have gone out in "live" ministry we have seen countless children, teens and adults give their hearts and lives to Jesus and been allowed to help many of them grow in their relationship with Him. We have trained many in the creative arts and helped others minister more effectively.

For many years we have not only gone to be an aid and encouragement to those on the mission field but have taken teams who then have their eyes open to God's heart for the whole world. These last few months have reflected our growing call to support those in ministry around the world and launched us into several things that are brand new.

One of those brand new things has us entering an arena we could never in our wildest imaginations have come up with. Levi, a faithful staff member for many years, has been training since his early teens to be a body builder. He entered his first contest last year and this year is on his way to entering the professional contests. He is making an impact. Not only has he used "Amazing Grace" as his posing music but people see Jesus in him and want to talk to him about the Lord. We have had the privilege of taking him to those contests, helping him with logistics and giving spiritual support.

The second brand new thing has been taking shape for about a year now and we have just had the clear go ahead from God this fall. From our first trip to East-the-Water, England, where we worked with our friend Fiona Fuhrman who was pastoring a church there, we had a heart for the people of the community, and especially the children.

We found a way to stop in 5 different times this year as we passed through London. Each time God made new connections, showed us His heart for the people and each time we were reluctant to leave. (I must tell you that being reluctant to leave is a God thing since the warfare there is intense and our normal mode of operating is to do the ministry set before us and hit the road.)

In September when we were there God kept nudging me with ideas about how we could affect the community or calling my attention to a child or showing me the open door to minister in the school or reminding me of things being prayed for by the intercessors with whom we met. Finally, I took a walk alone to clarify with God what He was saying and was met with some specific questions about counting the cost of saying "yes" to what was forming as a plan in my heart. It turns out that the ideas were definitely God and He was waiting for me to say "Here am I, send me!!!!" The joy of saying that was fantastic and the confirmations have come in many, many ways.

That night before I could talk with Fay, a little boy saw us walking and stopped us to say, "I know you, you came to our school and brought the puppets and that man with the muscles." [Levi] The conversation was cut off as his friend came up but obviously we were already having an impact.

As I shared with Fay what was on my heart, it was obvious that, as is often the case, God had been talking to her in a whole different way but saying the same thing. We said nothing to anyone in E-t-W, but came home to pray and talk with our Board of Directors. When Fiona arrived in late October to take part in our church's missions conference, she sat down the first night and asked what it was that God has been telling us about E-t-W.

We shared our desire to come, minister in the schools, begin after school ministry, train local Christians and reach some of those hurting children with the love of Jesus. It seems that the four of us, Fay, Fiona, Jesus and I talked and planned for 4 straight weeks. The plan has taken shape and while we have made the commitment to be there for a year, working with children and the many other things that unfold, Nathan and Kate Osborn will be moving over permanently to open a coffee house, work with small groups, and together we have a plan for community redemption. How amazing God is!!!

I know that this is not the typical Program Report, but we wanted to share our hearts with you. There have been puppet shows, conferences and we have done some hosting and arranging ministry connections for Nella, from Thailand; Fiona, from England; and the newly formed NOAH ministries in Zambia. Thank you for all your prayer and support.

We are available for ministry to the whole family, for training, for retreats and more mission trip preparation!
Contact us and we'll be delighted to work with you!
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We Recommend!

It's almost Christmas! If you need music to inspire or books to challenge your faith, enrich your devotional life, and/or make you chuckle with joy, we recommend these books and CDs—we've enjoyed them all and been refreshed by them as well!



Humble King [Christmas around the world] from Vineyard music has been out for several years. We just discovered it and are blessed by the voices and music expressing worship from all over the world.



Hillsong's **Celebrating Christmas** is a refreshing treatment of Christian carols done with their driving vocals and music.



Michael W. Smith always challenges with his music and this collection is so appropriate for today—its title, **Stand**, reveals its contents as we struggle to be faithful in a post-modern culture.



As shopping is becoming daily more of a challenge, we recommend Christian Books Sellers' website—www.cbd.com for good prices and efficient delivery.



What's a devotional time like when serving in the uttermost parts of the earth? Beth Moore has assembled a collection of devotions written by people on the mission field. It will bless, challenge and inspire you!



Joel Rosenberg has been interviewed on most major news programs this fall as his 4 novels about the times we live in are so uncannily paralleled with what's going on in the world. **Epicenter** relates current political headlines and events to Scripture and will help you understand much of what is going on. For excellent reads we also recommend his novels: **The Last Jihad, The Last Days, The Ezekiel Option** and **The Copper Scroll**.



If you need a good laugh and a fun read, *A Pagan's Nightmare* by Ray Blackstock is a good investment. He has become one of the authors we gravitate toward as his characters and their quest for answers to life's questions get to the right destination in hilarious ways.

As we prepare for vast new challenges in 2007, and look back over our most challenging year ever in 2006, we need your help—both to end this year with our books balanced and to begin the preparation for all that God has called us to do.

That includes intense ministry here at home for the next 8 months and then transferring to England for what God has called us to do there. Our expenses this year have been unusually high and our travels abroad usually cause a dip in income, so our need right now is great.

We ask that you pray for us, and if God leads, to consider an end of the year gift.

We very much appreciate your caring, your partnership and your prayers and are excited about what God has called us to do together!

Fay and CliffAnn

Report from the Field Fiona Fuhrman

One of the first emails I received from Fay and CliffAnn was in October, 2004. They told me yes, they could come to Bideford on their way home from Thailand and Africa. I don't think any of us realized what would be developing from that first visit in September '05. They also said that one of their main aims is to form relationships with missionaries in various parts of the world . . . *'pouring as much of ourselves and our resources into them as possible.'*

A few months later after their visit of March '06 they told you: *'the church is coming alive, people are getting saved . . . in the midst of great spiritual battles . . . we'll be taking a team of young prayer warriors over there in May and look forward to God continuing to do great and mighty things . . .'*

There is not enough space here to tell you all the great and mighty things God did through that Creative Ministries team during those ten days in May—but it was GOOD!

The necessary pre-planning produced itineraries, accommodation in the church, my home, and two other homes, plus a wonderful list of who was preparing which meals, not forgetting the minibus for the well-earned day out, a saga in itself! (Ask the team to tell you about Devon cream teas, climbing up beach rocks, reversing in the 'bus, escapades worth **The Pound**).

To my knowledge Bethel has never before hosted any sort of mission team, nor experienced enthusiastic people from another country willing to come, give of themselves, and serve the community in so many ways. So it was an education, an eye-opening time of blessing, growth and new levels of spiritual awareness. Many Bethelites appreciated every aspect of it all, contributing where they could, thrilled to be a part of something so much bigger. The vision of what is possible, and could grow into reality, began to gain clarity in some hearts. It was exciting!

The team took Sunday services, led the Nurture group, performed a concert one evening, spent a day doing assemblies in schools, worked on transforming the upper room into a church office, and prayed for many neighbourhood people. A huge part of that was walking up and down each East-the-Water street delivering postcards advertising free prayer and care, and knocking on doors in follow-up, meeting and greeting many who have never yet stepped inside a church.

The results are also too numerous to list all, and some are still emerging. The main thing is some new people have come into church, many more have returned their postcards with prayer requests, and some great relationships have formed. The local school has asked for more puppet ministry and continues to welcome Christian assemblies, and the local pub right opposite the church welcomes any of us anytime –and serves great food!

Hearts have been knit together, friendships cemented. Brittany, Trey, Jonathan, Mike, Levi, Tim and all connected with Creative Ministries will always find warm welcomes in East-the-Water and will be long remembered for their living testimonies.

With huge THANK YOU's and very much love to you all, Fiona.

Schedule

December 6—11	Planning retreat with Rudi and Sharon Swanepoel, God's Glory Ministries
December 13	Wanchese Christian Academy
December 16	Ministry at Children of the City , Brooklyn, New York
January 12-14	Family retreat at Living Hope EPC , Haymarket, VA
January 22-29	Ministry with Hope Ministry , East-the-Water, England
February 1-7	Ministry with Crossroads Destiny and Noah Ministries , Zambia