



INTERNATIONAL NETWORKX

Building Cooperative Bridges
Becky Ruland, Executive Director

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March 1, 2010

Dear Friends,

The Board of Directors for International Networkx has some very important information to share with you. After 14 years of intense ministry we feel it is time for Becky to take a much needed sabbatical to refresh and recharge. Since 1996 she has been diligently allowing God to use her to make disciples, birth ministries, and build facilities.

As you know the Sabbath is a time to cease from labor, and sabbaticals are an extended time to cease from normal activities. Richard Shockey of the Indiana Ministries of the Church of God said it well: "A sabbatical is not a vacation. Rather it is a time for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking anew from God's life-giving waters, and for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry."¹

While Becky is on sabbatical, International Networkx will continue to function and have needs. The Board and other volunteers will assume limited responsibilities essential to I.N. while Becky recharges. The sabbatical is being initiated for 4-6 months subject to the Lord's lead in Becky's recharging process. The plan at this time is to begin the sabbatical on March 15.

Our commitment to you is to carry out the work of International Networkx with integrity and reliance on God. During this time Becky will limit her personal contact and most ministry response will be handled by a Board member as needed. You can expect periodic updates relative to Becky's recharge and the ministry's activities. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Crow at inetworxboard@aol.com. We are confident that Becky and International Networkx will emerge from this sabbatical with renewed energy and momentum for all that the Lord has in store. We look forward to that future with hope and faith in God's will.

Here is how you can join in:

- Please pray for Becky and International Networkx often.
- Please let us know if you can volunteer some time for helping us with a newsletter or other activities.
- Please continue your financial support and consider increasing it as Becky's fund-raising efforts are being curtailed during the sabbatical.
- Send notes and cards of encouragement and invitations for personal fellowship. Becky treasures your friendship and this would add to her recharging process.

May God bless all of you exceeding abundantly above all that you can think or ask.

Board of Directors:
Steve and Barb Crow
Samuel Moore
James Bartlett
Becky Ruland

Council of Wisdom:
Pastor Darren and Monica Dye
Joe and Kay Henard
Jimmie and Muriel Fields
Debra Dean

Footnotes:

1: www.chog.org/Ministries/PastoralHealthGrowth/sabbaticals/tabid/519/Default.aspx
By Richard Shockey, State Minister, Indiana Ministries of the Church of God

Unity

"You thought you were doing one thing, but you were really doing something else," exhorted my 73-year-old missionary friend, Ben, in a recent conversation. I admire Ben's and Sally's tenacity and courage as they depart for another year to serve God teaching in China.

The three of us served as missionaries in Belarus. They did their ministry. I did mine. We seldom ran into each other. Their last Sunday in Belarus eight years ago, the pastor of the International Church blessed them and we all said our good-byes. For all I knew, that was the end of our encounters.

Many months later, I was in Hawaii -- not for vacation. Another ministry based there had flown me in for a few days to speak to their board about a potential construction project. For a few hours one day I borrowed a car to explore. Having heard that Youth With A Mission (YWAM) University of the Nations was nearby, I ventured onto the campus. I pulled into the circular drive to seek directions from the first live body I approached. Glory be, it was Ben! He and Sally were on sabbatical at YWAM, seeking God for their next mission field. Later at dinner with them, at the end of the earth with the Pacific Ocean our backdrop, Ben explained he to knock on doors in a certain Arab nation while Sally sought opportunities in China for them.

As a networker, I keep all addresses and phone numbers handy in an electronic handheld computer. It's one of the tools of my trade, so to speak. I never delete a contact. I have more than 2,000 all over the world. There at dinner, I shared my contacts in China with Ben and Sally. We also agreed that International Networkx could channel their financial supply line into the Belarussian disciples that remained running their ministry.

Ben and Sally have now thrived for seven years in that northeast Chinese city where one of my contacts became the open door for their next ministry, teaching young leaders at a university. And the supply line to their Belarus ministry still flows through our administrative pipeline.

Nothing ever developed with the Hawaiian ministry that had brought me there. I thought I was there to help them. Instead, God created a divine intersection with Ben and Sally. I thought I was encouraging them as we talked on the phone. Instead, they encouraged me. One part of our ministry that is so fulfilling is when a divine network brings glory to God and fulfills the gifts and callings of those involved. I believe "networking" is the 21st century word for God's intended "Unity"!

There are three points to bring to your attention in this story:

1. Networking and divine appointments happen often without my initiation, and always will since they are God's gifts within me working to accomplish His purposes.
2. It was at the end of their sabbatical that God appointed the meeting with these silver-haired saints. Like them, I hope to still be serving Him in the strength of my senior years.
3. The Apostle Paul took "forced" sabbaticals in prisons where he could do nothing but pray, praise, ponder, and write. Thank God for his writings! I much prefer doing the same "voluntarily" and in a pleasant location.



One last thing: Jeremiah's Hope in Ukraine (www.jeremiahshope.org) needs volunteers to serve orphans this summer at camp. Contact Andrew Kelly for dates at akellyukraine@gmail.com.

Thank you for your heart of love to me!

Becky