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MICS Messenger - August 2012

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings in His name.

Due to many obstacles, we have not been able to keep up with our emailing to churches and friends who love us, pray for us, and continue to help the work of the Lord in this spiritually dark world.

The last three months have been months of trials in many ways. First of all, the devil never leaves us alone. There are always battles to fight. Even though we become exhausted many times, one by one we overcome them with the help of the Lord and prayers of our dear friends.

In April, Romola had an acute viral infection. Although she started taking medicines for the infection, this caused her blood sugar to fluctuate, and, in turn, her blood pressure went high. She is still under treatment and doctor's observation. She lost her appetite, couldn't sleep and started feeling weak. She has lost quite a bit of weight. Even though she has started eating and sleeping slightly better, she still has a long ways to go. We postponed our plans to visit this summer three times, and finally had to cancel them altogether. We are learning the lesson of patience once again—trusting the Lord; that He will bring us out of this as victorious servants.

Some of you have known about Romala's illness and have been praying for us. We are very grateful to you for your love, care and prayers. Others, who did not know, we apologize to you. We do request you friends to kindly pray for us and especially for Romola.

It is amazing that in spite of all this, the work of the Lord is going on well, and we are being fruitful on the field—not because of anything special that we do or that we are, but only because of the blessings of the Lord and His grace.

We are so thankful to God for all of you who stand with us during this time. We will make it through the help of the Lord and your prayers.

Yours, because of Jesus,

Jay and Romola Henry



If you tried to e-mail Jay and Ernest but didn't get a response, that's because their Internet connection has been down most of the year. Damoh made improvements to the road in front of the campus, which was torn up most of the year. Construction dug up the Internet cable running under the road and left the campus without Internet connection.

When traveling, Jay and Ernest tried to respond to as many e-mails as possible. However, many messages never made it through to them.

The road is finally done and the Internet connection has been restored – or so we hope! So please try your email again.

Catch us at the ICOM in November!

The National Missionary Convention has a new name – **International Conference on Missions**. This year the conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 15-18th. Our booth numbers are 425 & 524—together on an end of an aisle. Please stop by to say hello and talk to our representatives.

If you haven't registered to attend yet, visit www.theicom.org/conference for more information. We'd love to see you there!



“Teaching the Gospel through service”

Don Toy, passed away quite suddenly just after Christmas. Don had been a Mid-India Christian Services board member for years and will be greatly missed. What follows is a heart-felt tribute written by Mike Stewart, another board member, who knew Don better than most.

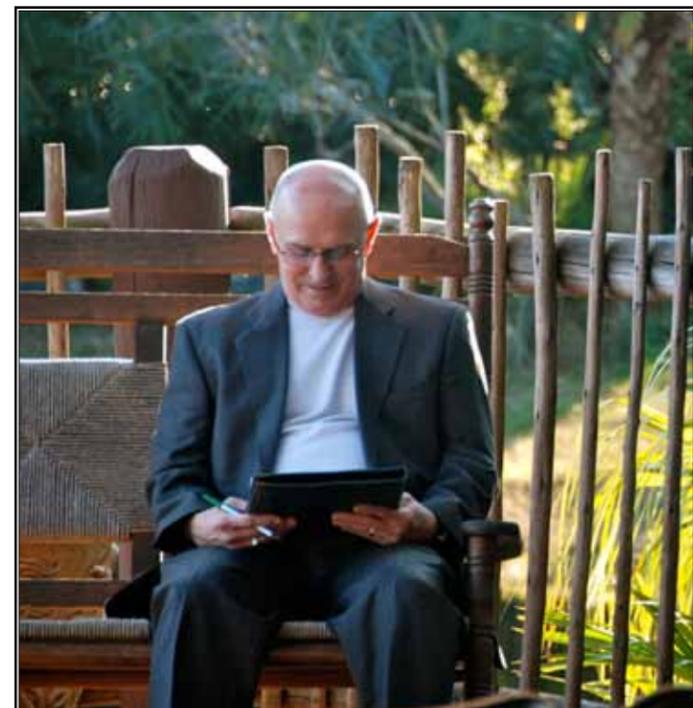
I met Don shortly after I served my first Sunday as a preacher. It was 1977. I was single, Don was married with three children (eventually his family grew to include four children). We were an unlikely pair but, over the next 35 years, Don and I would become the best of friends. On Dec. 26, 2011, Jesus called Don home while he was training for a marathon with his daughter Tara. Yes, at sixty-five Don ran marathons.

The bible says there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. That friend for me was Don Toy.

I loved the way Don laughed. When he was really excited he would almost giggle. I would deliberately say crazy and outrageous things just to make him laugh. He would laugh and say “You crazy thing!” Sometimes he would just throw his hands up, other times he would laugh and cover his mouth with his hands. I miss his laugh and making him laugh.

I remember a time when our son was in Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati for what was supposed to be about a three-day stay that turned into almost two weeks. Don came down from Dayton and sat with us almost an entire day. When it was time for him to leave, he asked me how I was doing financially. I don’t remember exactly what I told him, but he walked me to an ATM machine, withdrew money and gave it to me. To this day when someone goes to the hospital unexpectedly with a loved one, and they have to stay there for several days, Sonia and I give them money because we remember how much it meant to us. Don taught me that. That is the kind of man he was.

Don loved to fish more than anything in this world I think. Don had been in an accident one time and had broken both of his hands. As soon as the cast come off Don went fishing in the Smokey Mountains for Trout. His hands still weren’t fully healed and they started aching. Don would fish with one hand and hold one hand down in the cold stream water until it quit hurting. Then he would change hands.



I remember many times Don would be in the front of the boat, and I would be in the back. We would go through some place along the bank and Don would say, “Oh, I had a hit.” I missed him but I had a hit!” When my part of the boat would pass over that spot my lure would often bump that same rock or submerged branch and I would say, “I just hit that same rock you hit a minute ago.” Don would say, “Buddy, I had a hit.” Now that is one reason Don caught more fish than me. He was always positive he was going to get a bite.

When you fished with Don he always caught more fish than you did. You didn’t go in until he did!

I will miss serving with Don on the board of directors for the mission. The good news is I will spend eternity with him in Heaven. And if you are allowed to fish in Heaven, Don and I will go fishing. But Don won’t say, “Oh, I had a hit. I missed him, but I had a hit!” In Heaven, I don’t think you miss strikes. And finally, Don will have to admit it was just a rock bumping his lure and not a fish after all!

Think it’s hot here? It’s even hotter in India, temperatures were from 110° – 118°F. (Those are real temps not “feel like” temperatures.) They had record cold in January and had to close the schools for a couple of days because of the cold. Now this summer has been so hot they had to delay the opening of school because of the heat! It has been a year of extremes for them as well as for us.

Water is a real problem, too. Villagers must carry water from long distances. Children have been earning money by carrying water to outdoor restaurants and tea stands. Although it is monsoon time in India, storms are not bringing the much-needed rains. What little rains they have had have only driven the snakes from their holes. Jay and Ernest have killed two very poisonous snakes on the compound, a Russell’s viper and a cobra. It’s also driving scorpions into people’s houses.

So the next time you break out in sweat walking from your air conditioned car to your air conditioned house, be thankful you aren’t worried about cobras and scorpions, and consider what you might do to help our brothers and sisters in India. And, please, remember them in your prayers.



The Marwahi Preschool is a joy to visit. The children are so alert and making great progress. The teachers are not only preparing the children for school but also teaching them fundamental Bible stories and truths. The building, however, is another story. Large chunks of concrete had fallen from the building and one of the support columns developed huge cracks, so the building had to be torn down for safety reasons. The mission has rented rooms in a local building so the preschool can continue while construction begins on a new building.

If you would like to help with the new building or sponsor a pre-school child, please contact our field representative for details.

Bethlehem Bible College classes began the first week in July. When the students returned, they found their dorm had a face lift while they were gone. Their rooms were painted, repairs made to bunk beds and work-stations, and the bathrooms upgraded.

Makes life a little nicer and being away from family a little more tolerable.

Tidbits

The last day of July, India suffered a massive power outage-680 million people without electric. That’s **twice** the population of the U.S!