



March 24, 2008

This past week I was reading the story of Peter walking on the water in Matt 14:22-33. I could so relate to Peter's plight. Asking Jesus if he could get out of the boat and walk on the water seemed like such a good idea at the time. It didn't seem so smart once the boat bobbed out of reach. I, like Peter am often so filled with passion to serve God. I jump out of the boat with great enthusiasm and then suddenly see all the things that could go wrong and think, "What am I DOING out here? What was I thinking?" I've asked myself that question quite a few times since beginning to implement the plan to take 10 Smart Things to South Africa. However, God keeps saying "Trust me. I've got you" And many of you, my friends, have been a tremendous encouragement as well. The plans are made, the details are all falling into place and I am convinced the itinerary we have planned will give 10 Smart Things the exposure we had hoped and prayed for.

One of my speaking engagements in Pretoria is at a church of 17,000, which operates a national women's ministry. This engagement has the potential to quickly telegraph the news of a new way to reach women to the whole country. Another church in Johannesburg participates in a conference involving over 30 different churches and denominations each year. At their event, they are inviting all these partner churches to hear me speak. This will give us the opportunity to influence many leaders who will, God willing, take the 10 Smart Things course back to their churches and use it to reach women who don't know God. I will also be speaking at four events targeted at outreach giving me the direct opportunity to reach South African women for Christ. Additionally, I will be doing two book-signings and meeting with South African representatives of Stonecroft Ministries. In Canada, Stonecroft is currently using our material extensively and have made this introduction for me. I will also meet with a potential manufacturer and distributor for the course materials in South Africa.

Randy has deliberately kept his schedule lighter so that he can look after the many business details related to the books and money issues. He has, however, agreed to do his famous purity talk at one church and also to speak to the youth leaders there on a separate occasion. We will spend a day in the township of Soweto learning first-hand about the devastation of the AIDS crisis. Somehow it seems irresponsible to go to Africa and not see it with our own eyes. It will be a full trip. I actually get a bit tired just thinking of it. Will you please pray for us? We will need health and strength. We'll need safety in a dangerous part of the world. Most of all we will need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to communicate effectively and to demonstrate how the 10 Smart Things course is an evangelism tool uniquely suited to the "self-improvement" culture of South Africa. Thank you for your partnership. I know I speak for Randy when I say we wouldn't dare do this without you.

In His Grip,

Donna

Straight Talk Schedule

March - April 2009

Praise God For...

A great line up of speaking engagements/events/meetings in South Africa

How God has directed us in taking care of many details related to ministering in another country

Wisdom in stewarding STM finances in this challenging economic climate

Please Pray...

Safety, health and energy for Randy and Donna during their busy two weeks in South Africa.

That the people we speak to (both youth and women) will be positively impacted by our message.

Pray for connections with key individuals who will help with locally promoting, producing and distributing the course materials.

Pray for our girls' well-being while we are away. Kendall will actually leave for South Africa, while we are on our way back, with a mission/research team from Ambrose University.

Pray the release of Randy's purity DVD called *Microwaves, Crockpots and Other Stuff No-one Told You About Sex* that it will get into the hands and hearts of youth who need to hear it.

Randy's Schedule

March 28 Global Focus at Rocky Mountain College
March 29 Bonavista Missionary Church Sunday Service
April 3-5 Planned Famine, Gospel Light Church Debolt, AB
April 13 Leave for South Africa
April 15 Arrive in Johannesburg
April 17 Speak at youth event Rosebank Union Church
April 18 Youth leaders at Rosebank Union
April 20 Trip to township of Sowetto
April 22 Travel to Cape Town
April 27 Fly home

Donna's Schedule

March 27-29 Women's Retreat at Camp Evergreen
April 5 Women's Leadership Day in Sylvan Lake
April 6 Leadership Course at Christian City Church in Calgary
April 13 Leave for South Africa
April 15 Arrive in Johannesburg
April 16 "Every Woman" breakfast outreach event
April 16 Lonehill Village Church outreach event
April 17 Pretoria Book Signing
April 18 Meeting with Stonecroft Ministries
April 19 Business outreach event
April 20 Morning meeting with potential distributors
April 20 Afternoon in township of Soweto
April 20 Evening leadership event at Rosebank Union Church
April 21 Evening event at Moreletta Park Church in Pretoria
April 22 Travel to Cape Town
April 24 Business woman's outreach event
April 25 Book signing /speaking engagement, Sommerset Mall
April 27 Fly home