

# THE MINISTRY UPDATE

MARCH 3, 2004

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR: TOPICS

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## THE ROAD UNPAVED

Greetings,

This past year can be defined for me primarily as "a year of transition." And the journey has revealed avenues of potential.

After graduation I determined to stay in Cedarville and work to pay off debt. However, that can be very motivating to go back to school! Where once I found myself afraid of the future, now I look forward to it as a fresh opportunity for success and adventure.

So my goals began to develop. I decided that what I really want to do with my life is teach Bible. In order to achieve that I would need to earn more degrees. So I applied to Dallas Theological Seminary and I was accepted

this past December.

My direction for ministry has guided me to the island of Eleuthera over and over. So I began to think, "Could I be of some use at a Bible Training Center in the Caribbean?" It's amazing where the Lord can lead some people! Seriously though, there is a desperate need for full time teachers at this newly founded Bible School. So with the little ambition that I have, I'm making it my goal to earn my Masters Degree and one day teach on Staff for the Training Center.

In light of that endeavor I've decided to return to Eleuthera this summer for 2 months before seminary to grow my relationships with the missionaries



and nationals, and continue to follow the Lord's leading of my life. This is an exciting time for me: Moving to Dallas, growing roots in full time ministry position, and entering the next chapter of my life. Oh, and just

## THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT:

- The transition to becoming a seminary student.
- Financial support for serving in Eleuthera.
- Long term dedication to teach Bible over seas.
- The Training center: more workers needed, more support needed.

## A NEW FACE TO THE SUPPORT LETTER

I call it my newsletter.

As you can probably tell this letter comes to you in a little different format from the usual block letter form that we learned in the 4th grade.

I've decided that part of pursuing a career that is support based and effectively volunteer

oriented requires a more professional looking publication to keep my supporters up-to-date. This is my first attempt at a more reader friendly format.

Because I'm not a full time staff member in Eleuthera yet, and I have not gone through the full support raising process this

newsletter will not be continual in terms of monthly or bi-monthly. I will use it to keep you informed from time to time of the various events and developments in my life, until I enter the field on a fulltime consistent status. But don't forget I've got 4 more years of studying before I pack my bags.

## THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

It began with an idea.

What if Bahamian Bible teachers and pastors could receive an affordable education taught to them right in their own country? The answer is the Bible Training Center. With its rough beginnings in the early 90's, now EBTC is soon to complete its second year of teaching. In fact the first class of students (pastors and church workers) will graduate this May.

However, there are challenges that are cropping up. The regional location of the Training Center in Eleuthera will soon reach its immediate target. This is great, except for the fact that it is an island and all the people that *live* there are all the people that *are* there. The face of EBTC is transitioning to become more mobile. Soon Bible teachers will travel to the different islands and run

seminary seminars, teaching concentrated lessons geared to fast paced learning.

Also challenging is the readiness of expansion. The Center is ready for new recruitment in students and staff. I just talked with the board administrator who said, "We're trusting the Lord to raise up workers."

Where is the Lord leading you in facilitating his kingdom?



Picture of the Training Center in early 2000 from the air.

## THE DETAILS

What's new? Well, for the Training Center the basketball court is completely finished and painted. Kids aging from 6-26 have been flocking from neighboring settlements to come and play. As at any Mission Center the court probably draws the largest crowds.

The two new buildings are close to being completed on top of the hill. After some

important tweaking with electrical and plumbing along with skilled roofers the complex will be ready for use soon.

Youth involvement is up and a young missionary couple is in process of raising support to come aboard on staff as youth coordinators. Also a fellow graduate and personal friend of mine is anticipating her arrival in Eleuthera in July to serve in recruitment.

On a personal note, I've been happily dating my best friend Emily for 6 months. She is planning to stay in Eleuthera on Staff all summer after her graduation. We will enter the realm of "long distance-dating" once I move to DTS, but I'm confident the Lord will direct our relationship as we have collectively placed Him at the center. However, your prayers are always appreciated!

**"We're trusting the Lord to raise up workers."**

**- Ron Stokes**

**"Send out workers into His harvest field."**

**- Luke 10:2**

## JUST A CLICK AWAY!

I want to thank you for being a part of my ministry and remembering me in your prayers. Romans 10:14-15 say, "How can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" I count it a blessing to consider you as one who is sending me!

On the front of this letter, towards the bottom is a short list of prayer requests. Thank you for your faithfulness in reading them and praying for me.

I'm always encouraged to hear from you, and if you would like to drop me a line or ask me any questions the quickest way would be over

e-mail at...

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Or if you prefer Snail Mail...

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Thanks for reading, and I'll keep you updated. Till next time, sincerely yours,

-Ryan Flunker



This is Leige Burrows, the Bahamian construction worker and me on site. He is a very strong man!