

THE MINISTRY UPDATE

AUGUST 15, 2004

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: TOPICS PAGE

THE SUMMER'S HAPPENINGS, & THE BIG MOVE 1

GRADUATION DAY! & DISCIPLINSHIP 1

PRAYER REQUESTS 1

WORSHIP: WHO IS IT ALL ABOUT? 2

PROFOUND THOUGHT 2

GRADUATION PICTURES 2

ADDRESS CHANGE! 2

THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT:

- A job that is meaningful and can still pay the bills
- Financial support for serving in Eleuthera
- Discipline for school, and opportunities to minister here!
- The Training center: more workers needed, more support needed

THE ADVENTURE CALLED "LIFE"

Greetings,

I bring exciting reports from the islands, and continued challenges from the "real world."

It seems to me that each time I go to Eleuthera I gain a greater desire to serve there full-time. Perhaps it is the influence of time spent there or my disenchantment with material striving, but probably the most at-



tractive opportunity is the people! I was richly blessed to interact and continue building relationships with the guys on the island. Its as if they've now

adopted me as one of their own. I arrive at the airport, and soon word is spread that I'm back! What a privilege to be treated as a local.

The Training Center continues to press on! During the summer we accomplished considerable head-way on the construction site. We decked, tarred, and shingled the entire 3100 square ft. roof. Interior walls went up, and the exterior got browned (plastered). The highlight of the summer was the graduation of the very first class from the Training Center. This is why I'm here; what a joy to see your efforts meet full-circle. It was an amazing experience. I will write more about it later.

My summer on staff was grow-

ing and challenging, yet it was cut short as I needed to return state-side to begin my new life in Dallas, TX. The transition itself has proven to be difficult. Yet, the Lord provides. I'm living outside of the city, still in suburbs. My roommates are great, however its about an hour drive to get to school. The job I got is causing me a lot of stress, and I haven't even started classes yet! I look forward to how the Lord will provide, as I continue to walk according to His will. I continue to devote my life to full time ministry, hopefully in Eleuthera. And it's so great to see the Lord's confirmation through the gifts of fellow believers. *"To Him who can to abundantly more than we can ever ask or imagine..."* thank you.

THE BEST PARTS!

The highlights of the summer: the Graduation of the first class of Students from EBTC, and my weekly bible study with Mono and Andrew.

The main facility at EBTC can only hold around 250 people. We had over 350+ show up for the graduation—standing room only. The service was amazing,

my favorite part was hearing their testimonies of what the training has meant to them. The best one was, *"For God so love Eleuthera, that He gave us the Training Center"* - Wade W.

I also led a discipleship bible study that met every Tuesday for two Bahamian friends. We learned how to study the bible,

and they showed real interest and growth!



This is Mono, Andrew & I digging deep.

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Sometimes the Lord catches you by surprise. Today we went to church, a church that we hadn't been to in a while. Expecting to hear the usual social expressions of Bahamian church goers I was caught off guard when I found the Spirit speaking to me and my stubborn reluctance towards personal humility. You know, I'm American, we have technologically impressive sound systems, stunning overhead projectors, and eloquent orator-expositors which do all the "church" work for you. But there I was, in the middle of top of your lung singing,

swaying to the beat dancing, and genuine worship much like heaven-bound unashamed forgiven Lord-loving children. As I stood there, in my rigid, predictable, on beat (but not too obvious) hand-clapping, I was convicted. Who did I need to impress? Why so stubborn that I wouldn't give God the attention? What was I afraid of? So I prayed as the singing continued. "Lord please help soften my heart, that I would give you my best, the glory due your name." And with eyes closed I joined the chorus. It's different here. Somehow without all the

lights or the best instruments, when sound systems fail and CD's skip because of poor equipment – still, they remember it's all about Jesus. It's all about Jesus, all about Jesus... it's actually much easier to worship Him than we make it... you'd be surprised too!

"I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes." – 2 Samuel 6:22



I was honored to be asked to preach in one of the local churches. I spoke on *fellowship and walking in the light* from 1 John. During the service the power went out... weird huh?

YOUR MISSION FIELD

Profound thought:

We were having devotions tonight with the team, and they asked the question, "What is God teaching you?" The reply from one of their leaders intrigued me. She said, "It's amazing to see the

difference in actions we take in our cultures. Here are the pastors in Eleuthera trying to reach their people with so many hurdles to overcome: poor home life, maternal society, inappropriate relationships, drugs, alcohol, etc. And look at all we have in the

states. It would take just a small step in comparison to reach the people back home, and yet we don't reach out." What a sobering observation, the neighbor next door... Jesus died for them too – shouldn't you tell them?

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their message"

- Jesus

John 17:20

I'M IN TEXAS NOW... NEW ADDRESS

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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7170 Waterlily Ln.
Frisco, TX 75034

Or at school...

3909 Swiss Ave. #541
Dallas, TX 75204

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

-Ryan Flunker



Me at the Graduation, I ran the sound



The Pastors and the Graduation