

August Newsletter 2007

May we share with you some of the background leading to this landmark edition of Widows of the Old Testament?

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes, for you will spread to the right hand and to the left. Isaiah 54:2-3a.

Surely you will summon nations, you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. Isaiah 55. 5

When we first got married, we shared in a newsletter how God led, assuring us from His Word that it was okay for us to get married. May we share with you how God is fulfilling those promises for us?

Sylvia was unaware back in 1971, when God took her husband home, that He would permit her the vast array of experiences as a widow for thirty years so that He could use those experiences to minister to widows all over the world. God introduced this ministry the first time David took her to Kenya when she met with a group of widows who asked her to prepare Bible studies for them, which she has done since 2001. God led her to write Bible studies on the widows of the Bible and send them to Kenya via e-mail, where they were translated and taught in the Kikamba language. Then God impressed on us to compile these lessons into a book for convenience sake. The first two hundred copies of Widows of the Old Testament were printed via desktop and paid for by a Sunday School class so that we could give them to widows and to those associated with our ministry. The second edition has now been published.

It is interesting to see how God has led one step at a time. Widowhood – Experiences as a widow – Marriage to a missionary – Travels to visit David's son in Kenya – Request from Kamba widows for Bible lessons – Writing studies on Widows of the Bible - Compiling them into a book – Preparing study guides and creating a web site so people around the world can access them. And now what?

First, we need to review how God led David to this point in his life. Little did David and Esther know when they returned from South Africa, where they had served the Lord as missionaries for seventeen years, that God would lead them on a journey that included meeting Sylvia and her family. They met just after Ron had died and their paths kept crossing for the next thirty years. After Esther went to be with the Lord, David and Sylvia asked the Lord to show them, from His Word, whether or not they were to get married.

Although they had not discussed reading from Isaiah, God gave Sylvia the above

verse from Isaiah 54:2-3 and David the verse from Isaiah 55:5. Although we wondered how God would have us summon nations and how nations would hasten to us, we no longer have to wonder. Because both of us know a host of missionaries and nationals, they have been most excited in making contacts as well as telling other people about the book. Consequently, her book has been translated into Spanish and is being edited. It is being translated into Kiswahili (Swahili speaking countries), Kinyanwanda (Rwanda) and Chinyanja (Zambia) A host of other requests have come in, asking if it is available in their language or if they can be the ones to translate it into their language. Others are asking if they can use it in their widow ministries with their local peoples.

Sylvia has already written several lessons on the widows of the New Testament and anticipates completion of these studies within the next year so Widows of the New Testament can be published.

The following projects need the prayers and the funding of God's people. We are trusting God to supply these needs.

- 1) A trip to Africa next summer. Pray with us that God will make clear what countries we are to minister in next summer. We have had requests already from Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Sudan and South Africa. +-\$5000.
- 2) Administration costs for translators and editors such as ink, paper, misc. office supplies, equipment, travel, etc. +-\$5000.
- 3) Publishing of the translations – Spanish is nearing completion. Translation and editing in process – Kiswahili and Chinyanja. Since working with translators and having printing done in other countries is new to us, we have no idea yet how much it will cost to have the books translated and printed. God has provided gifted men and women who are doing the translation and editing work on a volunteer basis as a service to the Lord. We are researching publishing possibilities and costs. Pray that God will give us direction for the above.
- 4) Pray that God will provide us with a secretary.

Please send project contributions to: Interlink Ministries, Inc., PO Box 460, Apple Creek, OH, 44606. Designate for De Jong Ministries.

To keep up to date with the progress being made or other information please contact us on our website, dejongministries.com. Since this is a new website, please be patient for it is still being developed.

Blessings,
David and Sylvia De Jong