

Date: Fri, 29 Aug 1997 12:36:47 - 0400 (EDT)

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: PTL & Tent Ministry

Dear Friends, Leslie and Kevin:

Praise the Lord for the victories you are seeing. Your letter to your partners and friends was great, showing how the Lord is reaching out THROUGH YOU IN LOVE to hurting and needy people. That is the most wonderful news in the world. I've lived with that all of my life and I tell you, I never tire of it. I am so thrilled that I have been able to have a small part of spreading Christ's love in the C.I.S. and I am looking forward to more news from you, and especially, of course, about Poland. I know God will guide you in your thoughts and readings of the situation. We only want what GOD WANTS.

I want to know what is the progress about the tent? And the truck to haul it? I feel that the Church MUST DO MORE FOR RUSSIA and the REPUBLICS - NOW. And you are there as a great example of a married couple espousing the truths of Redemption and of Equality. These are FUNDAMENTAL to Paul's message therefore to the Church. And WHERE ELSE is there a man and a woman yoked together in equality and in effective ministry? You are vital. Never forget it!

When I talked to the Russian people there about tents, I believe it was the SEED of a solution to many obstacles throughout the CIS. God did not have me suggest that if He did not have plans for the evangelization of CIS. Look at the USA. It was first evangelized by preachers in tents.

I think we should PRESS THIS ISSUUE. Why could you two not be PACESETTERS, seizing the initiative, taking the lead, setting the example, providing the model for TENT MINISTRY evangelization in the CIS? WHO ELSE does God have? And then, why would there not arise a whole CORPS of tent preachers who would pave the way through the tough period (like an evangelizing army on the move) raising up tens of thousands of believers who would follow up those churches across the land like our early preachers did across the USA, spreading across the land in Gospel promulgation of love and peace with God through Jesus Christ.

To promote a VISION such as that, it has to be packaged so that people can identify with it. If you two SET THE PACE and PROVE ITS EFFICACY, then you can establish a SCHOOL OF TENT EVANGELISM, in addition to all the rest you would teach, and start a challenging program of equipping proven, qualified CIS preachers who are tough, who have worked with you, who know how to manage a tent, and how to drive and care for a truck and equipment. They would need BOOT-CAMP training (on location with YOU, of course --- your team), then REAL INSTRUCTION and PREPARATION.

Gather the information. What truck is best. Where can they be bought. What is the price. Where can the tents of different sizes be bought. At what price. What price for chairs for the tents, per chair? A generator. Where can it be bought. Which is the best. At what price.

Then leave things like PA Systems, music instruments, camp beds, blankets, lanterns, for the tent preacher to borrow money for or for him to raise money for in his meetings. If you give him everything, he'll rot on the vine. It is supremely vital that HE MUST RAISE THE MONEY. IF YOU CAN'T RAISE MONEY, YOU HAVE NO MINISTRY. THAT'S AN OLD PROVEN FACT. THE PREACHER WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO RAISE MONEY IS A DUD AND WILL NEVER GO FAR.

Lanterns are marvelous. One could light a tent with lanterns - we lighted the field in that mass crusade in Java in 1954 WITH LANTERNS and had only one little generator for one bulb on our platform and for the PA System, and that crusade was massive.

I have this strong feeling that if you go on record, sticking your necks out, establishing a National Russian Tent Evangelism Ministry - get known for it so people can identify with it, then I think we could represent this case to at least three or four churches that

I just feel strongly impressed to talk to you like this. After all, there's some reason why you two beautiful people (with the Norrises of course) had such a vital part in our mission to the CIS. Without YOU, we never could have done what we did. WHY YOU? WHY US? Now look at our involvement in Poland. YOU ARE THE ONES who will really make it possible. I'll get a lot of credit and glory and thanks, because of teaching and the books, but YOU ARE THE ONES WHO WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN -- - IF IT HAPPENS (May God's Will be done?) WHY YOU? Because you have HEART. Why did you come to Medellin, then to Helsinki, then to Oslo? WHY YOU? You are marked. You have a heart for our hurting world.

WHY HAVE YOU GOTTEN EXCITED about the "tent" idea for Eastern Europe? That takes toughness. WHO wants to do that? WHY YOU TWO --- A COUPLE, IN LOVE, GIVING ALL THAT YOU HAVE. WHY YOU? Because God has chosen you. You did not choose this. HE PUT IT IN YOUR HEARTS. HE MAKES YOU HAPPY THINKING ABOUT SUCH A THING --- when others would only shudder. WHY YOU? BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST GOD HAS. He is limited to WHAT we are willing to do and to WHOEVER is willing to let Him do HIS WORK THROUGH THEM. His "buck" stops at "OUR" desk. I think THE CHURCH MUST DO MORE FOR THE CIS. THE DOOR IS OPEN. THE BALL IS IN THE COURT OF THE CHURCH.

Why could you two not superintend a CORPS of Russian Tent Evangelism Preachers spreading the simple truths of Redemption across the nation? And why could you not have one in Poland, one in the Czech Republic, one in Hungary, etc. WHY NOT? If we can arouse the interest of some big churches, I think they would jump on board.

But ALL finances must be reported to you two, with ALL expenditures. IF THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO BE ACCOUNTABLE, THEY ARE NO GOOD. PASS THEM BY LIKE SAMUEL DID DAVID'S BROTHERS. Your office must superintend them.

Then look at what reports you will have to send to YOUR headquarters, and to YOUR partners. EQUIP EACH TENT ASSOCIATE WITH A SIMPLE CAMERA and give them LESSONS (ON LOCATION) in how to use it, and what kinds of pictures to take, and pointers in photography. If the tent team leader is a man, his wife needs to be part of their ministry and see herself as a LUKE< recording the events, a TEAM-WORKER, not a tag-along.

Well, I feel real strong about this. If I was young, I'd move over there and do it myself. Let me know what's happening about the tent. Don't let the devil obstruct this concept. You can be sure he is worried about it - AND ABOUT YOU. But LAUGH IN HIS FACE. There is not a thing that he can do about it.

I know - MONEY is your problem - and I wish I could wave a wand and solve that problem, but I have learned that one never makes a decision in God's work based on MONEY. Never! The decision is made on the basis of: (1 Is it good for GOD, 2) Is it good for PEOPLE, AND 3) Is it good for YOU IN HIS SERVICE. If those answers are YES, then it is God's will, and He says, "YES"! NOW WHAT ARE Y-O-U GOING TO DO ABOUT IT - NOT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?" I just believe the Lord has moved me to write to you very strong like this. Maybe the enemy has made this dream look impossible, but he is a liar and is only worried. I know that its lonesome at the front. But YOU ARE TOUGH. WHY YOU? That's why. God need TOUGH people like Paul and Peter and Priscilla and Acquilla and so many others --- like Amie McPherson and Maria Woodworth Etter, and T.L. and Daisy, and there are plenty more like them.

Read Joshua chapter one OFTEN and remember that "every place that the sole of your feet shall tread, the Lord gives it to you for a possession." "As He was with Moses, so will He be with you."

Well, what do you think of that for a sermon. I just know God wants this done in the CIS, including Poland and other East European Republics. But it will take time for "Joshua" (you two) to establish your pacesetting vision and PROVE that it will work, then to inspire young people to follow your example then to train them, boot-camp them, and heaven only knows what all else, but THE YEARS ARE GOING TO COME AND GO A-N-Y-W-A-Y. Doing this, within ten years, you'll have raised up a whole CORP of TENT EVANGELISTS IN THE EX-COMMUNIST NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE with churches established all over these nations. Then YOUR KIND will be trained, toughened, experienced, and ready for CHINA. And YOU TWO CAN DO IT. Jn. 15:16

Awaiting your reply, when you have time to

Your friend and co-laborer with Christ, T.L. Osborn