

"TIM AND ANNETTE... HMMM, I WONDER WHAT THEY'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY!"

THE THREE IDYLIC YEARS SINCE WE GOT MARRIED HAVE FLOWN BY HERE IN ORLANDO. I GUESS TECHNICALLY WE'RE NO LONGER NEWLYWEDS, EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE SAY WE STILL ACT LIKE IT. IN SOME WAYS IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE'VE BEEN MARRIED MORE THAN THREE YEARS. IN OTHER WAYS IT SEEMS WE'VE DONE ENOUGH TO FILL FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

WHILE TIM STUDIED AT REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, I WORKED VARIOUS JOBS RANGING FROM A GOVERNESS TO EDITING A THEOLOGICAL BOOK. DURING BOTH OF OUR SUMMER BREAKS WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING TOGETHER WITH A YOUTH GROUP AT A CHURCH IN FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA. THE BEST PART OF THE PAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN THE AMPLE TIME WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SPEND TOGETHER BECAUSE OF OUR FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES.

THIS FIRST CHAPTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER CLOSED IN MAY AS TIM WAS AWARDED HIS MASTERS IN DIVINITY DEGREE. NOW AFTER A WONDERFUL SUMMER OF TRAVELING, SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND EXPLORING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OUR NEXT CHAPTER IS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE. SO FAR IT'S BOTH EXCITING AND A LITTLE SCARY.

YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT WHENEVER PEOPLE ASKED US WHAT WE HOPED TO DO AFTER TIM'S GRADUATION WE WOULD ANSWER, "YOUTH AND MISSIONS." BUT WE HAVE NEVER HAD A CLEAR PICTURE OF HOW THIS WOULD WORK OUT. THROUGH THE YEARS WE HAVE PRAYED CONSISTENTLY FOR GOD'S LEADING ABOUT OUR FUTURE CAREER. AS GRADUATION APPROACHED WITH NOTHING IN SIGHT, WE BEGAN TO SEEK COUNSEL FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

ONE COUPLE, HUGH AND NANCY, WHO HAD BEEN FAMILY FRIENDS FOR



YEARS, TOOK TIME TO SIT DOWN WITH US, ASKING OUR INTERESTS, SKILLS, PAST EXPERIENCES, HOPES, AND DREAMS. A WEEK LATER THEY MAILED US A SYNOPSIS OF OUR CONVERSATION ALONG WITH THEIR INSIGHTS. THIS SUMMARY OF OUR INTERESTS AND ABILITIES HELPED US SEE MORE CLEARLY WHAT WE WANTED TO BE DOING.

COINCIDENTALLY — OR NOT — JUST A WEEK OR TWO LATER GOD BROUGHT OC INTERNATIONAL (FORMERLY OVERSEAS CRUSADES) ACROSS OUR PATH. ALTHOUGH WE BOTH KNEW PEOPLE SERVING WITH OC, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MADE OC DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MISSIONS. AS WE QUESTIONED BILL RAPIER, THE RECRUITER, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT OC'S MISSION AND DISTINCTIVES WERE EXACTLY IN LINE WITH OUR VISION.

IN JULY WE ATTENDED OC ORIENTATION WHERE WE LEARNED THAT FIELD TEAMS DO A LOT OF RESEARCH TO FIND OUT WHAT THE NEEDS ARE IN THEIR PARTICULAR COUNTRY. THEY ALSO WORK TO DEVELOP COOPERATION AMONG NATIONAL CHRISTIANS. SO INSTEAD OF DUPLICATING THE WORK OF OTHER CHRISTIANS OC CAN DIRECT THEIR RESOURCES STRATEGICALLY. THEY ALSO HELP LOCAL CHURCHES DO THE SAME.

THEIR PHILOSOPHY OF SERVING THE NATIONAL CHURCH FITS PERFECTLY WITH OUR DESIRE TO SEE YOUTH IN OTHER COUNTRIES REACHED FOR CHRIST. INSTEAD OF GOING OVERSEAS WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DOING YOUTH WORK IN ONE CHURCH, LIKE WE HAVE DONE HERE IN THE STATES, WE WILL BE GOING WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF EQUIPPING AND ASSISTING NATIONALS TO EFFECTIVELY REACH THE YOUTH OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY FOR CHRIST.

I'M SURE ABOUT NOW YOU HAVE THE SAME QUESTION EVERYONE ASKS US: SO, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WELL, WE DON'T KNOW JUST YET. IN EARLY NOVEMBER WE SHOULD RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP TEAM. AND THEN IN CONFERENCE WITH THE MISSION AND THE FIELD TEAM WE WILL CHOOSE A COUNTRY OR REGION. SINCE THIS IS SUCH A MAJOR DECISION WE'D APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS ABOUT IT.

NEXT, PEOPLE GENERALLY ASK, "WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?" WE WOULD LOVE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER WE ARE LEARNING THAT WHEN YOU WANT TO DO FULL-TIME MINISTRY OVERSEAS YOU AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A "MISSIONARY" WITH ALL THAT ENTAILS. ALTHOUGH PITH HELMETS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED... DEPARTURE FOR THE FIELD STILL DEPENDS ON OUR BECOMING FULLY SUPPORTED. IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEHIND US AND THIS MINISTRY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY AND IN PRAYER.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US ABOUT THE GREAT LESSONS GOD TEACHES THROUGH THIS PROCESS. I GUESS THE FIRST ONE IS HUMILITY. IT IS NOT EASY TO BE SO BLATANTLY DEPENDENT ON OTHER PEOPLE. BUT WE ARE LEARNING THAT IS WHAT BEING PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST IS ALL ABOUT.

WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE A ONE SIDED RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SUPPORTERS. WE'RE SURE WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF NEED FOR YOUR PRAYERS. AND WE

FIGURE THERE WILL BE TIMES YOU'LL WANT PRAYER AS WELL. IF YOU DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE, WE WOULD LOVE IT. AND IF YOU TELL US HOW WE CAN PRAY FOR YOU, WE'LL DO IT.

50% OF THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD IS UNDER THE AGE OF 20. WE'RE PRAYING THAT GOD WILL RAISE UP PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE THESE YOUTH REACHED FOR CHRIST. AND WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WORKING WITH US TOWARDS THIS GOAL.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE AND WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON OUR PROGRESS.

FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM,

TIM & ANNETTE (RAUMANN) GULICK

