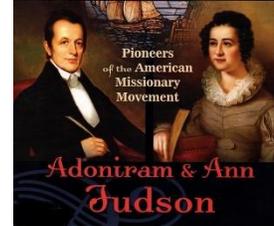




Sabbatical Update Report from Pastor Bruce Schipul, Summer 2014

July 30, 2014 - Second Report for July, World Missions Conference, Green Lake

Cristy and I attended the World Missions Conference of International Ministries held on the beautiful grounds of Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin July 20-17, 2014 with over 1200 in attendance from all over the world. We are more encouraged by the ministry of IM and hope we can be assured that our financial support is being used to glorify God in many ways to transform lives.



This conference was unique for two main reasons. This is the 200th Anniversary of the founding of IM with the commissioning of Adoniram & Ann Judson as missionaries to Burma in 1814. It was also the first time in over 15 years when almost every IM missionary was able to attend (for a week of encouragement, and then to participate in the conference.)



There were many outstanding presentations of what God is doing throughout the world from our Missionaries, from Partner organizations serving alongside our missionaries, and from IM staff. In just the past 14 years God has richly

blessed the work of IM in many ways. The goal of IM is to work with indigenous leaders to take the responsibility for the ministry in their country, and IM missionaries to take an accountable role of resource and support. This has proved so effective that in these past 14 years over 9500 churches have been planted, our missionaries have been invited into 18 new countries, provided support for over 1,500 volunteer missionaries each year, provided youth opportunity to serve each summer in a foreign country, partnered with over 900 like-minded mission groups and increased the support of mission work worldwide. IM has added 24 Special Assistant volunteer leaders in various countries and started a foundation to provide extra financial support when needed. Their evangelistic efforts also include humanitarian aid and social transformation, especially by moving countries like Thailand away from drug trade to grow coffee, promote the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution and greatly increased efforts to combat human trafficking worldwide. In addition, millions of lives were improved by health ministries in Congo, South Africa, South Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Thailand and India.

Several key leaders brought greetings and spoke to IM in celebration of 200th Anniversary, including the head of the Burmese Baptist Convention, Baptist World Alliance, and many others.



The highlight of our week was to attend a class led by Ray Bakke, specialist in Urban Mission Ministry in the 21st Century.



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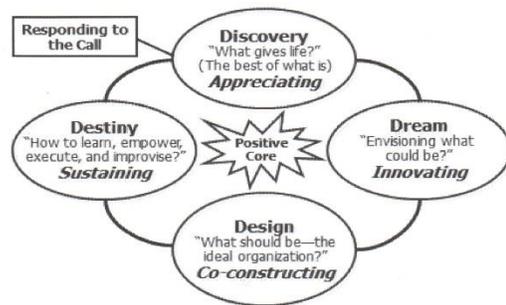


Each morning we were blessed with the Bible Study teaching of **Dr. Miriam Adeney**, Professor of Global and Urban Ministry at Seattle Pacific University. She serves on the board of Christianity Today International and is a mission associate of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission. She is also teaching fellow at Regent College, and author of several books. She was simply amazing as she led us through the book of Ephesians, citing many examples of how the text is being lived out in various parts of the world.



International Minsitries is going through a time of visioning of what God would desire in the next five to ten years. They are calling it “Responding to the Call, and is a six month process of engaging pastors, missioanries, staff, eveyone who attended thd confereceand for lay leaders eveyrwhere who would like to participate. Pastor Bruce took part in the Thursday sessions and met one on one, then in groups of six and finally heard the sharing from the entire group of what God might do through IM. All of this information is being studied in a process of discernment to articulate a fresh vision together with the values, priorities, and goals tht will guide the work of IM for 2015-2020.

Appreciative Inquiry 4-D Model



And of course we truly enjoyed the grounds of Green Lake Conference Center. We went canoeing on the lake, and hiked the trails. We have been to GLCC several times over the years and each time is a great blessing.

