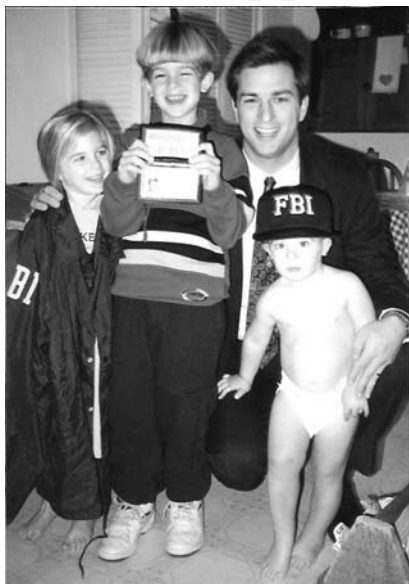


The Beacon

Dec 6, 2005

To our supporters and friends...



January 1995

Pictured here is the photo from our very first newsletter over 10 years ago. Doug had turned in his resignation to the FBI and this was taken on his last day of work. Many people warned us against doing such a “foolish” thing. Leaving the security of life as a Special Agent seemed more like a leap into the dark, than a step of faith to most. But this did not sway our decision, as we were certain that we’d heard directly from the Lord regarding His “call” on our lives. Doug turned in his badge later that day, gave away his 10 mm Smith and Wesson to a friend, and then cashed in his federal retirement account- prohibiting him from ever returning to the FBI. Many friends

believed this to be more than even the Lord would require, but we were determined to leave the world’s security behind and surrender the rest of our lives to serving the Lord in full time ministry. The faith stories that followed such a decision could fill a book and many of you witnessed them along with us. God provided everything we needed and so much more. That provision, through so many of you, has taken us around the United States, to Russia, Spain, Kazakhstan, the Artic Tundra, The Philippines, Ecuador, and to China to adopt a baby girl. What an amazing journey it has been!

We would love to write and tell you that we continued unwaveringly in that “call”, but over the years hard times and disappointments in ministry tempted us to stop depending on God and instead try to pro-

vide for our family through a more “secure” job in the secular world. The ministry support we continued to receive would allow us to minister and go directly to ministry instead of supporting our family. This all seemed like a great idea at the time and several friends even provided the funds Doug would need to get started in a “tent-making” position as an NBA sports agent over a year ago. But, surprisingly, it seemed that everything that should have worked, did not; every door that should have opened, was closed; and every opportunity that looked promising, ultimately failed. This led to very dark days for both of us, as we perceived them to be a reflection of God’s silence. Even though Doug tried to minister during this time, he began to see his passion for God and for ministry be replaced by



the needs and requirements of trying to be successful in this new venture. It seemed that neither of us had heard from God in a very long time and this left both of us more desperate than you can imagine. Doug began to search the “want ads” for a job to make up for the short fall that seemed to be growing on a daily basis. We were ready to write you, our faithful friends, to say that we were returning to full time work outside of ministry once again. The past 10 years suddenly seemed surrounded by question marks. Where was God and why did He remain silent when life and ministry made no sense at all?

Just last week, the silence was finally broken; the curtain drawn back; and a sense of direction restored. The Lord used a passage from Ephesians 4 to speak to our hearts... *“live a life worthy of the call you have received”*. We seemed to hear one word again and again~ **“Return...Return...Return”!** Suddenly and completely, the truth of our current plight was revealed. Like the Prodigal Son, we had wandered away from “home” and were seeking to “make it on our own”. What we perceived as silence was simply our loving Father waiting for us to return. God, much like the father of the Prodigal Son, had even provided what we needed to go and try to make it on our own, knowing that the life-lesson learned would be of greater value than any financial loss we might experience. We had made a vow to the Lord over 10 years ago that He would not release us

from- Praise God, He did not! We can now see that He was fully committed to blocking any of our attempts to succeed in anything apart from our call to full time ministry. God has given Doug a heart for the lost and the gifts to proclaim the simple gospel message. We are fully convinced that any work apart from that passion would be less than God’s perfect plan for our lives.

“Forbid that we should ever consider the holding of a commission from the King of Kings a sacrifice, so long as other men esteem the service of an earthly government as an honor. I am a missionary heart and soul... This is my choice.”

David Livingston

We knew what we had to do! We did not walk home...**we ran!!!** We have recommitted ourselves to the call God placed on our lives and to the vow we willingly made to not turn back from our full time ministry of evangelism. And though the difficult circumstances of our lives have not changed, it is a relief to once again rest in the Lord’s rich mercy and grace.

We felt compelled to come to you, the people that have graciously stood with us through these years, and let you know where we have been and currently are in respect to the ministry God has entrusted to us. Without the income from the “tent-making” work Doug was doing, our income has decreased by 60% since early October. This means that our ministry and personal accounts are at an all time low and we have debts that

seem overwhelming to us right now. We are in a place financially that we have not been before. And yet, we must remind ourselves that our dependence rests fully on a God who is able to provide, regardless of the size of our “mountain”. In addition, we are unsure what the future holds and where the Lord will take us. We are praying about an opportunity to be on full time staff with a local church in the area of outreach and missions or the possibility of returning to overseas missions with a para-church ministry once again. We are confident, though, that He has a perfect plan for us and we intend to follow, wherever that may lead us.

We could not have come this far without your generous support, nor will we be able to continue in the work God has planned for us without help from faithful friends like you. We are writing to ask you to prayerfully consider how God might use you to help us through this difficult time as we step out in faith once again. We are humbled that the Lord would willingly use us, in spite of our failures, and that He would surround us with people who share a passion to see His light spread to the ends of the earth. We commit anew that we will not rest until we have done our part in fulfilling that Great Commission!

Humbled by His grace,

Doug and Lori