

Great Commission Families

"Mobilizing Families for God's Kingdom Worldwide"

April 2006



"That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children." ~ Psalm 78:6

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have thrilling and dramatic life changing news to share with you!!

Our last Prayer Letter to you ended with this sentence:

"Next month we hope to have some big news to share as the Lord has been leading and preparing us for some exciting ministry opportunities."

A. A New Beall Generation to Come

That "big news" has become even bigger because our son, Josh, and his wife, Kerin (our 'new' daughter :-)) have announced to us that they are expecting their first child this coming September. Linda & I grandparents?!? We are *over-joyed*, and thrilled for Josh & Kerin, especially for the great privilege they will have to begin raising up another generation to follow after the Lord.

B. A New Ministry to Help Raise Up "GREAT COMMISSION FAMILIES"

In recent years, Linda & I have often sought the Lord and spoken to people we respect about the possibilities of taking our nearly 23 years of U.S. and international experience in evangelism and discipleship as full-time staff members with Campus Crusade for Christ, and launching a new ministry to help families, especially fathers, to be more directly involved in the Great Commission.

Every family has three mission fields:

1. Under their own roof.
2. Where they already live.
3. And wherever in the world the Lord might lead them.

Therefore, after many wonderful years with Campus Crusade for Christ, we are transitioning to launch a new ministry named **Great Commission Families**.

We will have five guiding goals for **Great Commission Families**:

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Great Commission Families is a new ministry program of Faith in the Family Int'l

1. **Family Missions** - Mobilize families for international missionary involvement short-term or long-term, and connect families with opportunities to host guests from other lands, all using the many contacts we already have around the world (i.e. Korea, China, India, Morocco, Russia, Guatemala, Zambia, Germany, etc.).
2. **Family Evangelism** - Help families to take steps of faith together to be lights in a lost world, beginning where they already live.
3. **Family Discipleship** - Equip parents, especially Dads, to lead their families to ‘walk together’ to become more and more a Christ-centered family.
4. **Family Instruction** - Speak, write & teach, and share our family testimonies, to encourage families with a multi-generational vision for Christianity.
5. **Family Christian Heritage** - Lead American and international families on tours in the greater Washington, D.C. area (i.e. Downtown D.C., Georgetown, Annapolis, Gettysburg, Williamsburg, etc.) to see our nation’s spiritual heritage, and to help them discover their own family’s spiritual heritage.

Many people know about my penchant for acronyms. Well, the five points above contain an acronym that speaks to what we desire our family to be in this age of hurting and fragmented families. On the battlefield, injured soldiers call out for a medic. It is our desire, in the Lord, to be a **M.E.D.I.C.** *for* families, *as a* family. Pray with us that the Lord raises up many spiritually healthy families to help fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of all the nations!



These are exciting days for us! **Thank-you** for your love and prayers. We appreciate you!

In Christ, *Bernie for the Bealls*

P.S. Starting with your next gift of ministry support, please make your check out to “GREAT COMMISSION FAMILIES” as the enclosed form indicates. You will be sent an official tax deductible receipt. We will be serving under the ministry umbrella of Faith in the Family International (FFI) who will handle all our official and legal ministry administrative needs.

FAQs on our Ministry Transition

A. WHAT IS THE SAME?

- VISION: As we've been doing since our college days, we will continue to seek to **win** people to Christ, **build** them in their faith, and **send** them to win others.
- SUPPORT: We will continue in full-time supported ministry, and we will continue to need your prayers and financial support!
- STRUCTURE: We will continue to work under an accountability structure including a board, an administrator, and a ministry advisory team.

B. WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- AUDIENCE: We will place our outreach emphasis on parents and whole families. By reaching the parents, we will be helping them reach their children, and their children's children, with a multigenerational vision for biblical faithfulness.
- MISSION SENDING AGENCY: Instead of our legal and administrative ministry umbrella being Campus Crusade for Christ, it will be Faith in the Family, Intl (FFI). [www.FaithInTheFamily.org] FFI is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 non-profit ministry.
- CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "**GREAT COMMISSION FAMILIES**" As an official Ministry Program of FFI, all support checks should be made payable to our new ministry. All donations will receive official tax-deductible receipts from FFI showing that the gift is designated for Great Commission Families.

C. WHAT LED YOU TO MAKE THIS CHANGE?

- CALLING: The Lord's clear calling and vision over time, especially the blessings and broader influence for Christ we have seen as a family as our older children have grown into adulthood.
- NEED: The tragic truth in our culture is that parents are losing their children to the world at an alarming rate. Studies¹ estimate that about 88% of youth leave the faith of their Christian parents. So we are desiring to work with parents and whole families with the vision, hope and prayer that the Lord would use us to inspire and equip whole families to be involved in evangelism, discipleship and missions.

1. 2005 studies by The Barna Group and the National Network of Youth Ministries

A New Ministry to Families
Launching Summer 2006

GREAT COMMISSION FAMILIES



THE BEALL FAMILIES

Bernie & Linda, with Aaron, Sarah and Daniel
Joshua & Kerin (left side of photo)

We live in an age of hurting and fragmented families. On the battlefield, injured soldiers call out for a medic. It is our desire, in the Lord, to be a **M.E.D.I.C.** for families, *as a* family.

Missions - Mobilize families for God's kingdom.

Evangelism - Help families be lights in a lost world.

Discipleship - Equip parents to be disciple makers.

Instruction - Encourage multigenerational Christianity.

Christian Heritage - Share our local spiritual heritage.

Pray with us that the Lord raises up many spiritually healthy families to help fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of all the nations!

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For a tax deductible receipt, please make checks to:
"Great Commission Families"