

September 2006

5 YEARS!

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See more photos from Europe & South Africa: MarysolRodriguez.org

UPDATE: EUROPE & SOUTH AFRICA

2 continents, 6 countries, accounting in too many currencies to recall, WHY? to lay the groundwork to pioneer Titus Project in Europe and South Africa.

Webster's defines the word **pioneer** as a person who is among the first to research and develop a new area of knowledge or activity. Really, its a lot less glamorous and feels more risky than it sounds. Titus Project began 10 years ago in Montana. Since then, we have multiplied locations and are running in India & Taiwan. God gave us a vision to see Titus in every continent by 2010. For years, the pull towards Europe & Africa has been strong. They are strategic locations or "hubs" for us to equip and mobilize Bible teachers. **Can you imagine seeing Swedish Bible teachers reaching Central Asia or Africans themselves being trained to teach all throughout villages in Africa? We can!** With that faith, we took the plunge and began

the pioneering work, meeting with YWAM bases & leaders, sharing with School of Biblical studies students, building relationships, teaching along the way, and laying the groundwork in 6 countries: Sweden, England, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, & South Africa. Meeting with so many new people & changing that many locations can be tiring, but is well worth the legwork. I decided to stay a while longer in South Africa than in Europe to be

able to explore many areas of ministry there and see how Titus Project could work alongside them. I taught Inductive Bible Study with their Discipleship Training School students (pictured top right). I don't think I have ever taught with so many nations represented in one room: Xhosa students from poor townships in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lethso, Korea, Sweden, etc. They were excited to learn how to study their Bibles, some of them the very first in their families to ever be able to get this kind of training. One student, weighed the monumental decision to quit his job and come to this training school, taking the risk and obeying the call of God on his life. To you or I that might not be as significant, but to a black South African, a real job is a luxury, a chance you might never get again!



Top to bottom): 1) Discipleship Training School students in South Africa 2) girl in townships 3) Former Muslim, now Christian woman who makes bags to support her family with a local ministry.

A ministry of Youth With a Mission, **TITUS PROJECT** equips graduates of the School of Biblical Studies with teaching skills and sends them into areas of the world to pastors and leaders who can't afford or have access Bible training.

A RETURN INVESTMENT



My work with Titus Project is twofold. One aspect is teaching overseas. The other is taking a team with me and training them up in how to do the same. The goal is to multiply yourself so that more people are able to fill the need. James Lunn & Terra Montford were both on my Uganda team and proved to be exceptional teachers. Now a year later, I'm proud to see how they have continued in ministry.

TERRA & her new husband Michael are now living in Idaho and starting a Bible school this month, training up people like themselves to be equipped in the Word of God.

JAMES stayed months longer in Uganda, then went on to help run Titus in Taiwan taking Bible teaching into Cambodia and closed parts of Asia. This fall, he is helping us run Titus in Montana and will be leading a team back to Uganda to continue our work with the Sudanese Refugees and pioneer new work in the Congo.

Now that's a worthwhile investment!

See their websites:

Terra: montfords.com

James: tomakehimknown.com

Update: Europe & South Africa Continued...

I also got unprecedented opportunity to meet with their Urban team, spend days going into some of the poorest parts of South Africa, the townships. Townships (*pictured below*), are areas that blacks or colored people of South Africa were forced to live in



under apartheid. Picture the worst ghetto in LA meets a slum. Homes of cardboard, tin, and scrap metal all crammed together on a hillside as far as the eye can see. The picture barely can capture it: each little square is a home. Its a place were poverty, rape, AIDS, drug use, unemployment, and other massive issues are a fact of daily life. South Africa is a land of contrast. A land of extreme wealth and poverty. Its crushing to see how extreme the pendulum swings. As I spent time in the townships, my heart would break and I was overwhelmed with the potential this land holds.

STATUS/ How you can pray:

EUROPE: We are still praying to see what step to take next. We would ideally like to see Titus begin to run in the coming year.

SOUTH AFRICA: Plans are set to run the first Titus Summer of 2007! So, I along with other staff will head back there in June of next year. Pray that would help us prepare the logistics and pave the way for a smooth pioneering of the school. Also, I am still holding South Africa up to the Lord in prayer as a possible long term ministry home. Please pray for God to speak clearly in this area.

REFUGEES GOING TO BIBLE SCHOOL!

When we were teaching in the Sudanese Refugee camps last year, I was often looking around wishing I could give some of these pastors the kind of Biblical education I was able to receive. 2 pastors in particular stood out to our team: William & Paul. For months, this thought would keep coming back to me. God was working on their behalf! This fall, thanks to generous donations given to Titus Project, we will be able to completely sponsor both to attend a 9 month School of Biblical Studies held in Uganda. Since James is returning to the camps, he will be able to make sure the logistics of this are taken care of and even teach in their churches while their pastors are away. **We are excited for the continued relationship God is giving us and the potential this holds: Sudanese pastors being able to come back to the camps & eventually return to Sudan with a Biblical education!**

2 pastors
stood out:
William & Paul

CAN IT BE? 5 YEARS!

A look back at half a decade of being in missions

September 7th, 2001:

I boarded my first overseas flight bound for Germany to work Mercy Ships. **In hindsight, I laugh because I really had no idea what I was doing, let alone getting myself into. I was naive but had a willing and obedient heart, a strange combination that God can use.**

I can not believe where this journey of obedience has taken me. The “plan” was to serve on board for several months and then return home, go to college, and have a career in broadcast journalism. I say I got my calling somewhere over the Atlantic, out at sea where I heard God clearly despite the nausea. I returned home through New York and took a hard look at the studios I hoped to one day work for and the only thought I had was, “Is this it?” I knew that night my life would never be the same.

This would be impossible without people like you... I want to thank every single person who has prayed, sent a surprise check, given so generously and consistently, written an encouraging card or email, or believed in me when the rest of the world thought obeying God was insanity. This is your story & celebration as well.

Thank you for being a part of this.

Thank you for being coworkers in the great commission.



God had broken my heart for a dying and hurting world. God had forever ruined me for the ordinary.

The journey has been exhilarating, with unexpected perks like seeing Everest and the Nile. Poverty, injustice, AIDS, persecution, and other horrors of this world have forever broken my heart and changed my perspective. Times of loneliness, exhaustion, and being sick have left me wrestling with God and in the end, only further cemented my commitment to be obedient. Meeting unsung heroes of the faith and repeatedly saying goodbye has left my heart scattered around the globe. Moments when money was tight, the task seemed impossible, I was scared to teach, or I was stuck in a bad situation has taught me that no matter what God can be trusted.

My parents still remind me that as a kid, I used to say, “I’ll be anything but a missionary.” God must have had a good laugh at that one. I look back at the past five years in utter gratitude that God drastically changed the direction of my life.

It’s been a privilege! I can’t wait to celebrate 5, 10, 20 more years!

AROUND THE WORLD ... LITERALLY



One day while bored on long layover, I decided it was time to count up all the countries God has sent me to over the past 5 years. Its astounding!

4 continents

23 nations

Other random things I remember:

longest flight: about 16 hours

weirdest named airline: Bhudda Air

top 3 strangest foods:

dog, sheep’s brain, & chicken feet

longest at sea: 7 days & nights

best deal: asian jungle safari on elephant for \$7!

favorite country: where to begin?

longest w/o a shower: 10 days

luxuries I miss often: hot showers, unlimited email, privacy, & chocolate

food I still crave: Cambodian

can not pack without: ziplock bags

strangest flight: Iraqi national soccer team on a Russian cargo plane

moments my mother has probably been scared & driven to her knees:

countless :)

BACK TO AFRICA: TANZANIA

In just a couple weeks, I'll head back to Africa to continue the work of equipping pastors & leaders with God's Word.

Its been a busy season in Montana lately as we are finalizing the logistics of running another training time. We have School of Biblical Studies graduates returning ready to go out and teach. **This fall we are sending 3 teams this fall: Uganda/Congo, Nepal, and Tanzania. I will be leading the team to Tanzania.**

Why Tanzania?



Last year, when I sought God to determine goals for the year, I felt like He specifically said to emphasize on Africa. It is a continent that I would like to one day work in long term and this will now be my 3rd trip back! YWAM Montana currently has a health care team working in Tanzania. Years ago on a

plane, I was struck with ideas and couldn't find a piece of paper so I asked the flight attendant for a napkin and started writing. I wrote down how I would love to see the heart of Titus, which is more teaching based, connected with mercy ministries, specifically our health care teams. **What would it look like to have a more holistic approach to ministry; to combine efforts and reach the whole community?** I wrote this on my napkin and put it away in my Bible and forgot about it. Until this summer. That's when the opportunity came to work alongside the healthcare team, perhaps pioneering a new approach in teaching. So I will spend this fall working in 2 areas of the country with my team bringing Bible teaching to pastors & leaders. I also feel complete peace about this in regards to my health since it will be a lot easier than a refugee camp and am believing I am healed! I'm excited to head back to a continent I love and see "napkin dreams" become a reality.



WILL YOU PARTNER?

As I'm thinking back on 5 years, I'm amazed at the provision of God. Sometimes I'm asked, "So, what are you paid do this?" People are often shocked when I say nothing, not a dime! As a missionary, I live by faith, believing that God will bring in the money to do what He has called me to. We are all called to missions in some capacity. Mine is to go, perhaps yours is to partner in prayer or giving. **Currently I'm falling short of my yearly ministry budget by \$400 a month. It would take 4 people giving \$100 a month or 8 people giving \$50 a month to see this goal met.**

If you are already giving, I want to take a moment and thank you for your faithfulness. But perhaps you have read about this ministry for years, but haven't yet been involved. **Would you prayerfully consider joining my monthly financial team? I plan on being in missions long term, and am asking God for longevity in this area. Would you pray about you personally, your business, Bible study or church investing in the long term work of missions?**

Tax deductions are available and automatic withdrawals can be set up for more convenient giving. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Visit Online!

Have you been to the website?
Has it been a while?

Go check it out! Pictures, articles, where I'm at, prayer requests & a lot more.

MarysolRodriguez.org

Tax Deductible Donations:

Please make the check payable to:
YWAM Montana
Per new tax rules, my name can not appear on the check, but you can attach a note indicating it is for me.

What's the best way to give?

Through YWAM. 100% of the money gets to me & they can process it while I'm overseas.

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