



Staying CONNECTED

WorshipNet International

Connecting people to God through worship

December, 2008

Dear Ministry Partner,

What are you thinking about in these last moments of 2008? People who've touched you in some significant way in this past year? Perhaps just one face, even as you read my question, flashed through your mind.

For me, that person is a young man I met in July on my trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Where systematic rape is a strategic weapon of war. Where young street kids as young as 2 and 3 years old fend for themselves, scrabbling for scraps to eat and a "safe" place to hide when night falls. Some of these kids are abandoned because they are children of rape. Some are abandoned because their parents have been murdered by rebel soldiers, or have died of AIDS.



As I look into the eyes of my precious grandson Michael (who just turned 2 in November) and try to imagine him grubbing in the dirt, alone, without his parents, the horror of life in the DRC grabs me by the gut.



And then I think of Serge ...

I met Serge in Uganda while preparing for our ministry into Congo. One night, our team was sharing in worship outside in the yard of our hotel. Drawn by the music, Serge came up to the patio and began to sing along. A Congolese national living in Uganda and passionate prayer intercessor, Serge became our on-the-ground intercessor, praying for us throughout our entire ministry in Congo. We didn't learn of his story until *after* we returned to Uganda at the end of our 2-week time in Congo.

One day, while visiting a friend several houses away from his home, Serge heard shooting in his village. When he looked to see what was happening, he saw his entire family being murdered. The night previously, several of his father's friends had come to their home trying to get them to rebel against the government. His father refused. So the "friends" returned the next day to kill them all.

When Serge saw his family being slaughtered, he escaped out the back and made his way to a refugee camp in Uganda. He has been hunted by those men ever since.

Please let us know how we can pray for you. It's our privilege to do so. Just note your requests (or information updates) below, tear off this portion, and return it in the envelope provided. Thanks!





Merry Christmas!
Jeff and Karen Merry

End of year reminder

In order to receive a 2008 tax receipt, all gifts must be postmarked by December 31st. Thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year that allow us to continue our ministry of coaching and training to worship leaders and pastors.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now donate securely through our website:
www.worshipnet.org.

On behalf of the leaders and pastors we serve, thank you for your generous support and faithful prayers.

We love you!

Since our time in the Congo, a number of Congolese refugees—along with Serge—were forced out of the camp and into the violence of the streets. And yet, Serge has not lost hope.

He continues to reach out to other refugees. He continues to share Christ. He continues to travel to a special place in Uganda—his “prayer mountain” he calls it—to intercede for his country, for his Congolese brothers. And for us.

In the midst of his incredible suffering, surrounded by death and violence, Serge prays for us. For us! How humbling it is that he would even be thinking about us in the midst of all that he endures. And he doesn’t just pray for us as people from some distant land he once met. This guy, who lives on the streets of Uganda, manages to find access to a computer to email us to see how he can be specifically praying for us. I receive regular emails from Serge asking how we are doing. He knows the names of my children and grandson. He prays for each of them and their circumstances. He prays for our ministry and our ministry partners. He prays for YOU!

As I come to the end of this year, 2008, Serge’s face is burned deeply into my heart. He understands incarnational, Christ-like living. He doesn’t look to his own suffering, but to how God wants to use him to expand the Kingdom of God. On his street. In his country. Around the world.

We live in uncertain economic times right now. Unemployment is up. Fear is certainly up! Our tendency might be to pull in our resources. Certainly, conventional wisdom and financial planning experts would say cut all unnecessary spending. But, I think God is calling all of us—in these challenging days—to live like Serge. To ask Him how He wants to use us and all that He has blessed us with to expand His Kingdom.

Please join me in that prayer. Ask God how He wants to use you. If he leads you to support us with an end-of-year gift, thank you—it would be tremendous blessing. If He leads you to give generously to help your church meet its budget shortfall or some other Kingdom ministry, great. If He leads you to go and share Christ with that neighbor you never talk to, wonderful! If he leads you to a “prayer mountain” to intercede for our brothers and sisters around the world, tremendous! However He leads you, do it. Don’t hesitate. Respond today to His missions call in your life. Whatever that looks like. If Serge can serve in such an incarnational way, certainly we can, too.

In the Christmas grace of Jesus,

Jeff and Karen Merry

P.S. Please take a moment to tell us how God has challenged you in your missions call. And let us know how we can be praying for you in 2009. Thank you for serving our King!



Serge worshipping with our team in Uganda

Yes! I want to help empower and develop worship leaders and pastors so that others might come to know Christ more fully through authentic expressions of worship.

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