



1200 Town Center Drive
Unit #424
Jupiter, FL 33458

November 20, 2008

Each one of you receiving this letter is either a family member, or we have developed a relationship with you as a student, a neighbor, a church member, a co-workers, a friend from the many locations we have lived in AZ, TX, FL, ND, MD, KS, MO, NJ, and Russia, or one outside the USA to whom we have ministered in the past, whether in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, or Botswana. What a great collection of relationships our Father has granted us! Please take time and allow us to review with you our **Past**, our **Present**, our **Future**, and your possible **Partnership** in that future.

OUR PAST

As you have probably already observed, our marriage and ministry have been geographically diverse, with a total of 19 moves in 37 years. For the last five and a half years, we have been ministering from Bloomfield, New Jersey. Twyla was serving on staff at Riverside Community Church, developing the Cell Ministry, while Les did a little bit of everything. During this period, he has served as a cell and Natural Church Development consultant to our home church in Nutley, and has continued expanding our own 501(c)3 ministry, Strategic Cell Ministries International (SCMI). During the last decade, Les has served as an adjunct professor at Regent University both in Virginia Beach and in Seoul, Korea. He has ministered in Bulgaria, Hungary, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, and Botswana, as well as locations around the USA. Les became certified with Lifeforming Leadership Coaching as both a professional Life Coach and also as a coach trainer. He recently became a Winslow Certified Representative of the Winslow Research Institute, allowing him to distribute and administer both the Winslow Personality Profile and Winslow Bible-Based Report. We both published a book while serving in NJ, and Twyla's second book is being readied for publication by the end of the year.

Obviously, a major facet of Les' ministry has been international. We realized during the last year that a greater and greater percentage of SCMI's annual income was being generated by donations for ministry toward those who could not afford it, rather than being generated by those in the US who were paying for services and products. Like our daughter Sarah, we were feeling more and more the burden to minister to those who needed and wanted it most...but who can

least afford it.

We attended the DCFI (DOVE) International Leadership Conference at the end of March. In the very first session, the Lord told Twyla to lay down RCC and her desire to stay in NJ. She struggled, cried, and finally did give it back to the Lord. But, she admits, "I hoped that this was just an 'Abraham Test' to see if I was willing to stick the knife into Isaac without having to really do it."

However, in the days and weeks that followed, it became clear that God truly desired for her to lay it down because He was taking us somewhere else. We began to pray and ask God the million dollar question, "Where?" Nairobi, Kenya became the clearer and clearer response. We departed on September 22nd for a seven-week ministry trip to East Africa, a trip that had been planned since last winter. We felt that the Lord would confirm one way or the other our potential move to Nairobi, during our time of ministry in Rwanda, Uganda, and various parts of Kenya.

OUR PRESENT

He certainly did! The reception in Nairobi and response of the leaders and pastors in Rwanda, Uganda, and throughout Kenya was wonderful. Many seeds have been planted, and it seems the time from planting to fruition here is short! Even greater, though, has been our connection to key ministry leaders, some of whom we did not even know prior to our coming, but with whom God had divine appointments already planned for us.

There have also been some changes in our own personal circumstances. As our ministry trip to Africa drew to a close and we continued to pray, we felt that the Lord clarified in our thinking that the more prudent course of action would be to not return to the States at this time. We had seen our family recently. We had our belongings 95% ready to ship. It would be very costly financially to return and then fly back to Kenya. We came originally on frequent flier tickets, so our return to the States would use up the other half of the tickets, or 95,000 miles. Taking into account the price of round trip tickets for both of us for a return trip to Kenya, and return back to the US later on in 2009, coupled with the costs of driving to see family as we had tentatively planned, came to more than \$5,000. That was an additional \$5,000 we did not have.

In addition, one of the main issues we faced if we remained here was where to stay for 2-3 months until our container arrived. However, a place was provided to us. We also found an apartment to rent right downstairs from the one we are in, beginning in January. Les can sit tight finishing the lay out of the new book, and we can begin to proceed with the numerous ministry opportunities that are here. Ibrahim Omondi, the DCFI Apostolic Overseer for DOVE Africa, is helping us with the immediate application for our missionary work visa.

OUR FUTURE

As we look forward to 2009, we envision SCMI's ministry thrust will be fourfold:

Thrust #1: Material Development

As we relocate our SCMI headquarters from the US to Kenya, from Bloomfield to Nairobi, we will continue to focus on the development of cutting edge training material. Layout and publication of Twyla's **Cell En-Cell-clopedia** is nearing completion. SCMI's first installment in a series of cell training **videos** is in the editing stage and targeted for release towards the end of the first half of 2009. Les' **Cell Coach / Small Group Coach Workshop and Teleclass** has been written and prototyped in two churches. It waits final editing. Les' **Values Workshop**, designed to bring the Senior Elder, staff, church leaders, and members onto the same page has been tested. Finalization is targeted for the third quarter of 2009. SCMI has dreamed of producing a bi-weekly **podcast** for most of 2008. The equipment and software have been purchased. Lord willing, 2009 will see that dream become reality. Training material already published by SCMI now also needs to be adapted for the African church.

There is also the need for some of our published and upcoming audio/video materials to be translated into Kiswahili, the international cross-tribal language of East Africa. Kiswahili (or Swahili) is an African language spoken mainly by the people of eastern and central Africa. Kiswahili is believed to have developed through a combination of Arabic and a native African dialect, and then to have spread through the slave trade the Arabs maintained for centuries. It is still spoken by people who live in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, eastern Zaire, northern Zaire, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, northern Zambia and Somali Republic. Although not as widely used as in the aforementioned mentioned countries, Kiswahili is also used by some people in Congo Brazzaville, southern Sudan, the Comoro Islands, the northern part of Madagascar, and the Persian Gulf states. Kiswahili is a national language in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Christian missionaries learned Kiswahili as the language of communication to spread the Gospel in Eastern Africa, thereby helping even further to spread the language. As a matter of fact, a missionary prepared the first Swahili-English dictionary. God has been using Kiswahili as the common language bond for the spread of the Gospel, much like He used Greek during the Roman period.

Thrust #2: Pastoral Leadership Development

SCMI is looking forward to building in 2009 and beyond a significant relationship with the **Clarence Matheny Leadership Training Institute**. This is the only "Bible School" many pastors in East Africa ever know. This retreat and training center conducts two 4-5 day training events for pastors

and a marriage retreat for pastors and wives the first half of each year. Each training event in 2009 is expected to surpass 1,000 pastors in attendance from all over East Africa. The second half of the year the ministry will travel and conduct smaller regional training events. Specifics regarding how the giftings and ministry of SCMI will be intertwined with the needs of the Institute have yet to be worked out, but both organizations are excited about the possibilities that lay before us. A letter to SCMI from the chairman, Ronnie Matheny, is attached to the end of this letter.

SCMI will also be seeking additional cross-denominational partnering opportunities with other indigenous ministries involved in leadership training in East Africa.

Thrust #3: Cell Church Training

SCMI is seeking to partner with DOVE Africa in providing specialized cell church training to the multitude of DOVE church pastors scattered throughout Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, as well as meeting individual pastors' needs through SCMI's ministry of Soul Therapy.

SCMI is also seeking to partner with other indigenous cell church family of churches, and those desiring to move into cells in East Africa. Contacts already established in Uganda will be followed up in 2009.

Thrust #4: Coach Training

As a professional Life Coach and Coach Trainer, Les will be seeking to strengthen his relationship with Lifeforming Leadership Coaching (LLC) and its work in Africa. At the same time, Les will be seeking ways of expanding the work of professional coaching in East Africa. These efforts will include, but not be limited to, continuing to train professional coaches through LLC, bringing coach training into churches in the region, and seeking to establish an academic coaching program in various regional theological schools.

As in the past, we will also continue other international ministry. Even though we are sure that the demands and schedule will be taxing in many ways, God will give us the strength to accomplish what He has called us to do.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP

As we have assessed living costs, we believe that we can live simply on a personal budget of about \$40,000 a year. To some of you, that may sound like a lot, especially for Africa. However, Nairobi, with a present population of nearly 3 million and projected population of 5 million in just seven more years, is one of the largest cities on the continent of Africa, and the cost of living has been more expensive by African standards. On top of that, due to the post-election violence within the last year, the cost of food, housing, fuel and daily living have doubled,

in some cases quadrupled, and are still daily rising. Besides the cost of our own living expenses, we will continue to need additional funding in order to travel and minister to the many leaders and pastors who are outside the Nairobi area. We can do that only as funds are available.

We ask you to pray about supporting us in this new ministry thrust to East Africa. We welcome both whatever one-time financial donations, or regular support, you desire to make to SCMI. The best and easiest way for you to make any type of donation is through PayPal at www.strategiccell.com/about_donate.html on our website, or by mailing a check to our new SCMI office address in Florida, 1200 Town Center Drive (Unit 424), Jupiter, Florida 33458.

We will let you know more specific prayer requests as they develop, as regards both our ministry in Kenya, as well as our personal needs. We will post regular ministry updates on the website, too, at www.strategiccell.com/about_news.html. You can also subscribe online for our soon to be coming regular newsletters.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The great blessing of technology today is that we can stay in touch through email, web sites, and skype. Please let us hear from you. We do desire to be kept abreast regarding what you are doing also! Unless you have lived in a foreign country, you cannot imagine how lonely and isolated you feel at times!

Until we can secure a P.O. Box, we do not have a mailing address. There are no street addresses in Nairobi, no mail delivered to homes, and no P.O. boxes are available in the city of Nairobi. We will have to secure one in the suburbs after we obtain our work visa. However, email is still the best option anyway, so please take advantage of it. Our email addresses are: lesliebrickman@mac.com, brickman@us.net and TXTwyla@olq.com. If you want to skype us, just let us know your skype name. Remember, we are eight hours ahead of EST.

Besides cyber space, even real flights are not that long. Maybe some of you will even want to do a short-term missions trip to Kenya!

Thank you for taking time to read this entire letter. We know it is longer than what most people desire to read, but we believed your love and interest in us would propel you forward.

All our love and prayers,

Les & Twyla Brickman



Clarence Matheny Leadership Training Institute

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November 12, 2008

Re: Ministry in Kenya

Dear Les:

Greetings in the name of the Lord! I trust all is going well.

After our discussions about what God is doing here in Kenya and the ministry you have, I am very excited about the possibility of you helping us with the vision and ministry here. Due to the type ministry we have to church leaders, finding qualified teachers and ministers that can do more than preach an inspirational message is so needed. After our conversations and my research of your ministry, I feel God has sent you here for just a time as this.

The church leaders in E.Africa are in dire need of what you have to offer. To begin to dream and imagine that it might be possible to have a teacher of your caliber that lives in Nairobi and would be available for ministry at our leadership training institute is exciting. The Clarence Matheny Leadership Training Institute is basically the only "Bible School" training most of these pastor ever get. Your ministry would be multiplied here and bring great fruit. As I expressed my heart to you, that if we can touch the leader, we can change the church, then the nation.

I know at the present time you and Twila are looking everything over. On the behalf of thousands of leaders who are desperate for training, I pray that all things will work out for you to live and minister here.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can help you with. Kenya will be so much the better if you guys are planted here.

In His Service,

**Ronnie Matheny
Chairman/Clarence Matheny Leadership Training Institute**