

# Strategic Cell Ministries

## INTERNATIONAL

February 2010

LES & TWYLA BRICKMAN

www.strategiccell.com

## MINISTRY UPDATES

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I shall pay my vows to the Lord, oh may it be in the presence of all His people." Psalm 116:12-14

### PRAISE

- **En-CELL-clopedia** is finally completed after 4 years! The release date of the e-book is in March.
- **Work on Cell Leader Training, Swahili Bible Study materials, and Cell Agendas** are progressing.
- **New Friends**, Fey & Colin Holtum, along w/ John from SIM.
- **Refrigerator** finally fixed after 4 service calls, a cooler & lots of ice!
- **Healing:** Twyla was very sick with a very bad cold, but recovered without antibiotics or steroids.
- **Safe journey home** After a wonderful six week visit, Sarah returned to Australia until the end of April when she'll be back again.

### PRAYER

- **Twyla's dad** going into a nursing home this week. Very hard for all!
- **Les' Coaching** Continue to pray over this term's final 9 weeks of Coach Training of African leaders!
- **Material Development** Please pray over development of the Cell Leader Training, Bible studies, and Cell Agendas we are writing!
- **Destiny Staff Cell** Please continue to pray over what is happening in the hearts of these men before the Cell Prototype!
- **Les preaching** at Destiny 3/14.
- **Keria** Preparations are being made for the Cell Conference April 12-16. Please pray for committee, pastors, and spiritual groundwork!
- **Provision of a vehicle**
- **Provision of 2010 support**

### VALENTINE BANQUET

We were the featured speakers on Feb. 13 at a special Valentines Day dinner for married couples at Destiny Chapel in Nairobi. Yes, they celebrate Valentines here in Kenya. We shared an overview of the seasons of our 38+ years of marriage and key lessons learned that could apply to them. It was very well received and helped them to get to know us better.

Marriages here have multiple issues. Obviously, all of the following is not true of every marriage. Certainly, the younger generation is more educated and westernized. Of course, that has its own issues, doesn't it? Here is a sampling of problem areas we face when ministering to marriages:

- On-going polygamy
- High rates of HIV
- Female circumcision...All sexual pleasure for men only
- Women viewed as property due to the bride price paid for dowry.
- Women abandoned if they fail to produce sons.
- Wife beating is common & the

- police will do nothing about it
- Extreme verbal abuse
- Women not allowed to eat w/men.
- Wifely submission = doormat
- Women inferior to men
- Women literally walk behind their husbands
- Husbands with no understanding of servant leadership. Considered to be totalitarian chiefs who do not consult with a lowly women.
- Husbands do not think they should help at all around the home, with children, food, etc. Wives must do everything.
- Husbands give wives little or no money for any needs.
- Husbands demand to be waited on, dinner exactly on time, etc.
- Little to no understanding of biblical teaching about marriage.
- Common sight at marriage retreats: Couple arrives with wife walking behind the husband carrying all the luggage...but they leave differently!

You may ask, "But what about Christian marriages?" I just described too many Kenyan Christian marriages!!!

### VALENTINE BANQUET

Les & Twyla speaking at Valentine Marriage Dinner



**HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY!**  
Sarah insisted we celebrate Australia Day complete with a blow-up kangaroo. Hmmm



## LIFE IN AFRICA

### BEAUTY IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

It is very interesting what different cultures value. For instance, one of the Kenyan women asked me about what Americans think of a large space between the two front teeth. I immediately explained how my mom had fixed mine when I was young by wrapping a small rubber band around them to bring them together. However, that was not the point.

Here a large space is valued and the larger the space...the more a woman is considered beautiful. In fact, one lady is getting braces, but has explained to the dentist how he must fix the problem teeth without reducing the wide space between her front teeth.

Ladies, if you are frustrated in the States with trying to lose weight and feeling fat...just come to Africa. Being fat is highly valued here! In the midst of poverty and

starvation, carrying extra weight shows you are prosperous and well fed. Remember when Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof* prayed for his wife to be fat with a "proper double chin"? Same idea.

However, I still have trouble with that value. When I returned from the States last March and Gladys complimented me on how fat I was, I still wanted to punch her in the face. I've tried several times to explain how being told you are fat is not a good thing to say to an American, she doesn't understand.

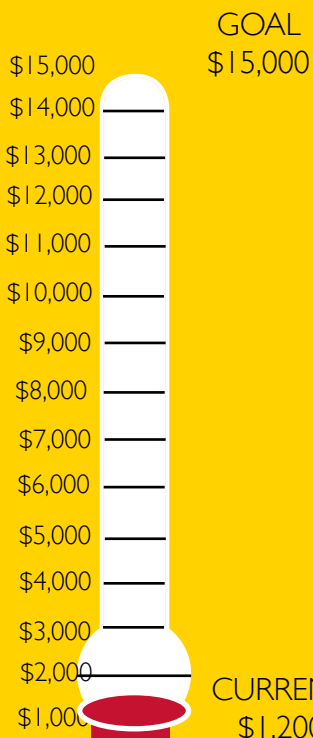
### FRIENDS IN TRANSITION

Well, Sarah has gone back to Australia. Our dear friends, David, Janene, and Jullianne Waldrop have moved back to the States. Our new friends, Fey & Colin Holtum who are also teaching on cells, went back to the UK for several months. In the meantime, Ronnie and Debbie Matheny are still back in Texas, but due back here in just a few weeks!



Top: Pauline & Doreen display their beautiful front spaces. Middle: Fey & Colin Holtum, along with John from SIM. Bottom: Women's Fellowship at Waldrop's for Janene & Jullianne's Farewell on 2/19 after their ministry here for 1 1/2 years.

## VEHICLE FUND



Basketball-size Cabbage!

Fresh veggies & fruit abound & are cheap. PTL!



### DONATIONS

**Credit card** donations can be made via PayPal on our website: [www.strategiccell.com/about\\_donate.html](http://www.strategiccell.com/about_donate.html)

**Checks** payable to SCMI can be mailed to our address at the right.

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