



# HAVEN

## NEWSLETTER



MISSION TO THE AMERICAS  
"A vision for the harvest"

ELL & TERRI HONSBERGER, DEC 97

EHONZ@aol.com 303-750-2277



### Long Distance Love

Isn't it incredible how the death of someone you have never met can hurt so much? As a family we were blessed to attend the Rich Mullins concert in Joplin, Missouri this summer on our trip. We have always been blessed and challenged by his music. Yet just a few short weeks later he was killed in an auto accident. I was in Birmingham, Alabama for a conference when Terri called me with the news. We literally cried on the phone. Rich was one of the Christian musicians that I really admired. His concerts were not about him, or his looks, but rather on the magnificence of the Lord.

I also admired him because of his commitment to give most of what he made to Compassion International's ministry to the Navaho Reservation, where Rich himself would often visit and would minister to the people there. His latest album seemed to say a lot about him also. He is picture in front of a door with his hand covering his face, almost as if to say he was embarrassed to be the focus of the picture. What a unique perspective! Between the death of Keith Green many years ago, and now Rich, we have lost two people who really brought a needed perspective to the Christian entertainment field.

The pain we felt over his death was compounded by the fact that one of Rich's songs was instrumental in the Lord bringing us to a winter

"Let mercy lead,  
I'll be the strength in your legs,  
and with every footprint  
that you take  
there'll be a drop of grace.  
If we can reach,  
beyond the wisdom of this age,  
into the foolishness of God,  
that foolishness will save  
those who believe, although  
their foolish hearts will break  
they will find peace,  
and I'll meet them in that place  
where mercy leads."

### LET MERCY LEAD



God spoke to our hearts that day, and we committed ourselves to adopt two sibling children from an international orphanage. Now we are not impulsive as this had been on our hearts for a long time, but with Andy's condition we could not seriously consider it. But since he has calmed down and changed so much, we had started to talk about it again. Other factors that moved us was a situation with some dear friends from Aurora, Nebraska who had gone to minister this summer in a Filipino orphanage. While they were there, a fire broke out and killed five of the infants. This news just crushed us.

Also I had been preaching on hell this summer to our supporting churches. The passage I spoke from was Matthew 25:31-40 where Jesus spoke of the judgment of the sheep and the goats. We talked about the

may not be a more Christ-like thing that we can do. In a culture where paganism is growing exponentially, and the "love of many grows cold," we want to honor the Lord in a way that will not only bless some children, but will speak loudly to a culture where mercy and grace are falling by the wayside, to be replaced by the coldness of karma, and the "circle of life."



All of this was going through our minds this summer as we listened to that song, and we knew that God would have us love some children who desperately need a home. As missionaries, we have never had a lot of money, but we know by comparison to how most people of the world live, we are rich. As if to confirm the point of the song, we informed family members, who are not Christians, of our decisions. They were shocked. "How will you take care of your own children?" was their basic response. But sometimes they forget that we have been through this before. Our oldest son Scott was adopted shortly before his first birthday. We committed to loving him while we were still in Seminary. We loved him from afar, before we had ever seen him. Right after I graduated, I flew out to get him, and then our long distance love became an "in your face" reality. We are looking forward to making that kind of trip again, and fulfilling the long distance love that God has given us again.

"His Name

shall be called



in the Lord bringing us to a major decision for our family's future. After leaving Missouri and traveling to Los Angeles to speak to some churches there, we were listening to his song entitled "Let Mercy Lead." The chorus goes:

...and the song... the verse about the fact that everything Jesus spoke about relates well to adoption. Hunger, thirst, being aliens, clothes, sickness, in prison, all seemed to appropriately relate to those in the orphanages. We believe that there

Emmanuel"

Mt 1:23



It seems that this is all analogous to another story of long-distance love; that of our Heavenly Father for his wayward creation. Christmas is not just a celebration of a baby's birth, but rather the celebration of Emmanuel's coming. The Lord of all creation is now here! The verse all Christians know reflects this. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world." Now if this was all that was said, we would have a nice illustration of sympathy (long

distance love in a incomplete state), and not much else. Talk is cheap, as we all know, but thankfully the verse goes on. "That he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The Incarnation is the ultimate example of long-distance love being completed by the Lord's "in your face" appearance among us. Compare this to the Islamic understanding of Allah, who is so distant and unknowable. Or to the new age concept of God as a cosmic energy field. We can call the Lord God, maker of heaven and earth,

"Abba-Daddy!" Jehovah--Jirah was not content to tell us of his love, but rather he proved it. He came and sacrificed his best for us. Our seeking to adopt is only a pale imitation of what he has already done for us. We were in prison and the Lord rescued us. We can never pay him back for what he had done, but we can follow the example and leave a drop of grace in all our footprints. We will send out a letter in January detailing the situation as it becomes clearer. We are intending to raise the fees for the process and we ask you to prayerfully consider if you could help us make this happen.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please continue to pray for our family's salvation.

Pray for new agers Randy, Sukkacitto, Anikka, Flora, Rho, Ian, Michael, Steve, John, Kathryn, Cindy, Denver, and others. Pray for Muslims Asirif and Waheed, for Mormons Dale and Jeff, for JWs Al, Deane and Bonnie, and for many others in all sorts of different groups. All need the Lord.

Please again pray for the healing mercy and grace of our Lord for Paul F., Steve Z., Connie B., Patty W.,

and Conrad H., as well as for others.

Pray the adoption will go well, and the funds needed will come in.

Pray that our support level reaches 100%.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

**Non-Prophet Enterprise Update:**

Continue to pray for the members of the "Concerned Christians" group based here in Denver. They are attempting to leave the country and will be even more difficult to reach out to if they do. The destruction of families in

their wake is incredible. Pray for the repentance of the leader Kim Miller, and for members Vince and Anne, Moline, five different Malesik brothers, Keith and Kurt, Lark, and so many others.

**Travel Schedule**



This winter I am speaking at several local churches, the Christian Ministry Convention, a missions conference in Pheonix, and teaching world religions at Rocky Mountain Bible Institute. Please pray that I honor the Lord in all these activities.



Have a Wonderful Christmas,  
Bill and Terri Honsberger and boys



Galilee Baptist Church  
1091 S. Parker Road  
Denver, CO 80231

Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit 576