

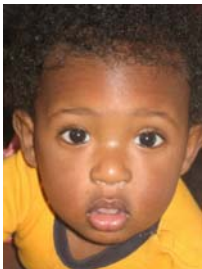
Heart Lifting Ministries Spring of 2009 Prayer Letter

Doug and Donna Lowery www.heartlifting.org 608-239-6593

Greetings to our Friends in Christ - our faithful intercessors:

We have so much to report in this letter and are excited about sharing wonderful answers to prayer with all of you! In just a moment, we will go back to December and work our way up through May - but, first we have a wonderful family announcement!

New Arrivals: We have been blessed with two new grandchildren since our last prayer letter. **Ella Grace French** (to our youngest daughter, Darla and Jeff) was born April 13th in Plano, TX. Donna was able to fly from Pittsburgh the following day and spend almost 2 weeks with them. Doug continued meetings in eastern PA in the



meantime. She flew back to Philadelphia and visited with Dawn's family before starting our trek back to WI, after being away since December 20th. Then on Saturday, April 26th, our son, Danny, returned to Milwaukee from Ethiopia with their second adopted

son, **Micah Abi**, who turned 1 year old May 3rd. We were able to see him May 2nd for the first time. What a little cutie, who smiles constantly! He is welcomed by his Ethiopian brother, Caleb, who is almost 3. Danny and Kristen are thrilled to have their second son, especially after nearly 8 months of red tape and delays! While in Wisconsin, we will also be spending time with Deann's family before heading out east again. Our whole family gathered for Thanksgiving this year, so we decided to get to Florida before Christmas, so we

could spend that special day with our mothers. Most years we are in FL for 3 weeks, but this year we had the joy of being in the Sunshine State for 7 weeks where we had some wonderful times with our Moms and one of Donna's brothers (Tim) and his family. It is a blessing to be able to visit with our family as we travel; we cherish those times!

At the first of the year, we were in South Carolina for a gathering of evangelists and their wives, called IMPACT 21. One special blessing at that three-day conference was to see Evangelist and Mrs. Jerry Sivnksty honored for their 40 years in itinerant ministry. All three of their sons - Todd, Scott, and Brent (all of whom have followed their parents' godly example, and are traveling America with their families in itinerant evangelism) - were there to give tribute to their parents. It is refreshing and reassuring to know that there are still many other fundamental, independent Baptist evangelists in America who are taking strong stands and being used of God in local churches! Then, we had the real joy of being invited to attend a Church Planter's Retreat in Lakeland, Florida. A classmate of mine (Bob Jones University, 1970), Bud Calvert, started Fairfax Baptist Temple (VA) in 1970. This retreat had 20 pastors and their wives in attendance from all over America who all came out of FBT. Fifteen others couldn't be there! **Yes, 35 church planters have come out of this one church, and those 35 churches have started 40 other churches!** It was a thrill to be a part of their retreat! We also were asked to provide special music for a national meeting of the International Fellowship of Fundamental Baptists held at Winkler Road Baptist Church in Fort Myers, FL. Also while in Florida, we recruited at Clearwater Christian College - our 10th college for recruiting during the 2008-2009 school year.

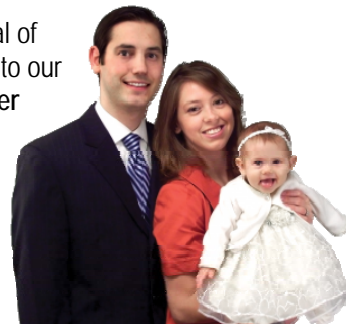
Headlines: "Recession, Bailouts, Foreclosures, Unemployment Rate Soaring, National Debt now in the Trillions." These are interesting times, aren't they?! But, our God is still on the throne and we must remember that things are going to get "worse and worse" (2 Timothy 3:13) before Jesus comes for His Church. These are financially troubled days, and have had a huge impact on many churches and ministries across America. Churches have had to cut their budgets, including their mission budgets. Two churches had planned to take on Heart Lifting Ministries this year, but were unable to do so. Donna and I have been walking by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) from day one of this itinerant ministry, but our faith was greatly tested in January and February. Our income was several thousand dollars lower those two months than the same two months in 2008, and our itinerary was very slim. In fact, we had only one church scheduled in April, and nothing scheduled in May. Humanly speaking, it looked bleak and dismal. But, we recalled verses like Hebrews 11:6, and knew that God could not be pleased without faith. We finished April with meetings in 6 churches and we have 7 scheduled in May! We had only 3 multiple-day meetings this entire winter and spring (which is highly unusual for us), but God has marvelously met our needs! Let me list 3 specific praises:

- Last summer we had ½ of our property tax bill come in the middle of NYSET. We prayed fervently that the Lord would provide this money ahead of time. A large offering this spring came in from a multiple-day meeting so we could cover this bill. This will help ease the financial pressures this summer.

- A church in PA gave a gift for our summer ministry, which is being kept aside for summer expenses.
- My supply of suits was getting low, and was a matter of prayer for God's provision. A dear Christian friend purchased two beautiful new suits for me in March. God is good.

Those are three financial praises, now let me list some other praises that we are grateful for:

- The Lord has given us a wonderful team for NYSET 2009 - there are 8 of us for sure, and we have a married couple and a single young man who may join us. Two PA youth and adult teams will be joining us for a week each this summer. (Team members pictured below.)
- Brandon Kim, the youth pastor of Heritage Baptist in Ashburn, VA, gave me a great deal of help on our website. Working together, we added 4 new pictures and 4 new categories to our website. Please check out the new and improved www.heartlifting.org and look at **Prayer Requests, Our Mission Board, Helpful Links and Contributions**.
- God has been bringing in many multiple-day meetings. Several meetings have come in for the fall of 2009, and our 2010 calendar is starting to fill in. We even have two meetings in 2013! On our website, under **Itinerary**, there is a drop-down box for **2009** - click on that and you will see the full year's schedule. Dan and Maggy Klaus are joining us again for NYSET 2009; in fact, Dan is officially my assistant now.



James Noreua
Crown College



Jessica Lane
Crown College



Rachel Moline
Northland Baptist
Bible College



Paul Hudson
Bob Jones University

PRAYER REQUESTS: Again, go to **Prayer Requests** on our website for a full list of requests. Here I am listing only 4:

- God's blessing on NYSET 2009, and for His abundant provision financially. (Our team may grow from 8 to 10 or even 11. Love offerings will have to be divided more, and will give each team member less. Please prayerfully consider sending a gift each summer for the NYSET ministry. A gift of any size would be appreciated. Many gifts of \$5, \$10 and \$15 add up quickly.) **Checks should be made payable to Open Door Baptist Missions and designated to Doug and Donna Lowery on the memo line of the check. Their address is 1115 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615-3603.** Please give your tithe to your local church.
- Our Dodge mini-van just reached the 150,000 mark. It runs fine, but we really need an 8 cylinder vehicle to pull our cargo trailer. (We pull a 5' x 5' x 10' trailer currently; we need to upgrade to a 6' x 6' x 12' to accommodate all that we carry with us - especially when we transport the team and all their things in the summer!) We are praying for a used, low mileage Chevy Suburban (or similar vehicle) for our traveling needs.
- The sale of our house in Waterloo, WI. We have secured an interest only mortgage payment (which makes it affordable for us, but it is not paying down on our principal), but our home owner's insurance has tripled (now \$1,900 a year) because our house is unoccupied! Please pray for a buyer to come along soon.
- **Songs to Lift the Heart** (our music CD) will be 20 years old in June! Thousands of cassettes (its original format) and CDs have been sold and many hearts have been blessed by it. Please pray with us for the time and the money to make more CDs. We now have 3 instruments to accompany our voices - my classical guitar and Donna's hammered dulcimer and Yamaha Clavinova digital piano. We would love to make several more Christian instrumental and vocal CD's, as the Lord allows and supplies.

We love and appreciate all of you *Doug and Donna Lowery*