

Read new e-letter

Rita & Steve Read
Pastoral Leadership Development in the Philippines

*And the things you have heard me say
in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to reliable men who will also be
qualified to teach others.*

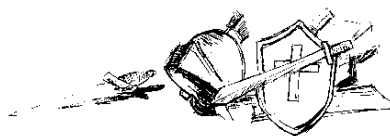
2 Timothy 2:2

Volume 3, Number 2, Summer 2008

"Warrior-Shepherd" email initiated

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

The Lord has burdened Steve to start an email of encouragement for pastors—a ministry of encouragement to pastors here in the US in anticipation of the ministry to which He is calling us in the Philippines. Beautiful recommendations came from many of you to name this new email for pastors. "Warrior-Shepherd" prevailed.



For some, the words "warrior" and "shepherd" don't seem to go together. Yet when we think of David's example, clearly that shepherd-like care, concern, and compassion, is compatible with warrior-like traits of courage, strength and leadership. Thank you, Father, for our pastors: under-shepherds of our Lord Jesus Christ who guard and fight for the flock, as well as lead to quiet waters and green pastures ... And thank you to those team members who've helped with this!

Pastors' wives encourage each other

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

God has given Rita a ministry of encouragement to pastors' wives. On April 25-26, nine of these significant, ministry-oriented individuals gathered for a refreshing overnight retreat. Focusing on building each other up in the faith and on discovering how different temperament traits enables one for ministry, these godly women shared joy and pain in an atmosphere of love.

Our Lord has opened a door for Rita to exercise the ministry-burden and gifts that He has given her. What a thrill to begin doing that now, even as we prepare for the mission field.



Reads on the road

And surely I am with you always. . . (Matthew 28:20)

Adventures abound! Gratefulness springs up for the beautiful saints we meet visiting churches. New friendships forged and others rekindled, sometimes after years of separation. In recent weeks we traveled to Massachusetts visiting three churches, enjoying time with family in the Boston area, and reconnecting with friends and supporters of years past.

Our Ministry Vision

The need

- About 80% pastors in the Philippines are untrained, undertrained and mostly poor.
- Undertrained leaders need guidance to effectively resist false doctrine by teaching sound biblical truth

The vision

- Ministry multiplication: God has called us to *mentor* and equip pastors, especially among the poor—leaders, who will then train others.
- God has also called us to join the Filipino church in *mobilizing* a tremendous movement of missionaries into the harvest field.

Three Read publications

We have three publications that you can pick from: one, two, three or none?!

One: *READ* newsletter mailed quarterly for ministry and family updates.

Two: *Warriors & Intercessors* e-mailed monthly for prayer requests for ministry and family.

Three: The new *Warrior-Shepherd* emailed monthly for pastors and ministers.

None: If you'd like any or none of these, please let us know? 5334 Beecher Rd., Osseo, MI 49266, or email reads4@gmail.com.



As God's children, we are so thankful for His promise: *And surely I am with you always . . .* No matter where we are—at home in Michigan, on the road, or overseas—the adventure of life is what it is because He is there.

As parents, we want to educate our missionary kids in their unique calling. Stephen and Shannon remain our good partners in ministry and traveling troopers. Clocking hours in the process of missionary travel life—we balance the miles traveled with sight-seeing and unique educational opportunities that they otherwise may not experience. Highlights on this last trip include New York City's Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island. Oh, let's not leave out the chocolate experience of Hershey, Pennsylvania! Here's some of the kids' impressions in their own words:

Shannon: New York City! WOW! New York was very big, but it seemed like the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island were even bigger! Seeing the Statue of Liberty was like having my history book come alive! It was so fun! When we were riding up in the boat, I must have taken a million pics! The 2 hour line was so worth it!!!! If you ever have a chance to go to New York, I suggest that you do!

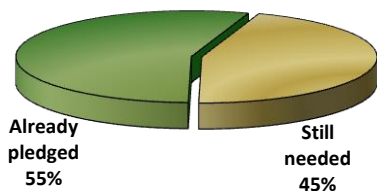
Stephen: On our way back from Massachusetts we stopped off in Hershey, PA. to visit Chocolate World. What a fun time! We found ourselves hurrying into the building and wondered at what to do first. The chocolate store amazed us with aisles

of Reese's, dark chocolate, milk chocolate, and a gourmet collection of flavored chocolate. Learning about different kinds of chocolate and tasting the delicious flavors was enjoyable. We left Chocolate World satisfied and happy!

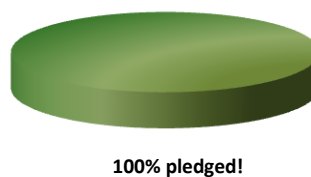
Support-discovery update

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Monthly Budgeted Support



One-time Outgoing Expenses



We praise God for His gracious provision! We are currently at 55% of our monthly budgeted support and 100% pledged for our Outgoing Expenses. Thank you for your faithful prayer and participation in these faith goals!

Please continue to pray that we will receive at least 80% by August 1 as a green light to plan to leave by October 20. And then don't stop praying! We need 100% of our budgeted monthly support to effectively fulfill the ministry to which God has called us.

And we pray for you . . .

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. . . (Philippians 1:3-5)

Loving Lord, humbly we bow before your throne, acknowledging your absolute right to gloriously reign in our lives. We thank you for the one who reads this letter. We thank you for their faithful partnership in prayer. We praise you that by your grace you are using them to accomplish your purposes—in their home, church, and community, and to the furthest reaches of the globe. Exalt yourself in their lives. May your love be in no short supply as they live for you, hunger for your Word, and keep in step with your Holy Spirit. Through their lives, may your Kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. With deep sincerity, we thank you so very much for this friend, partner, co-laborer, fellow-warrior. Amen.

If the Lord leads you to partner in this ministry . . .

Send your tax-deductible check to Action International Ministries, P.O. Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043, or make a web donation at www.actionintl.org.

In His grip, **STEVE Rita** Stephen **Shannon**



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