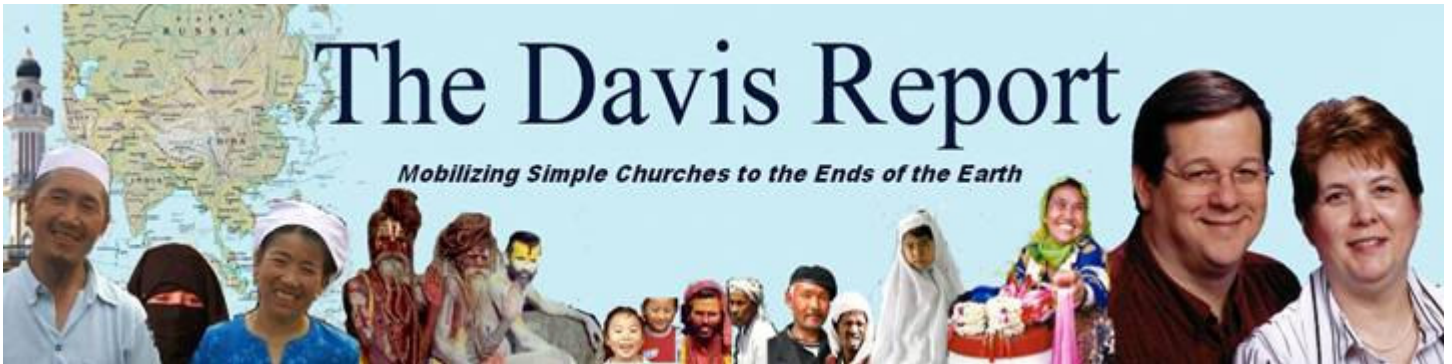


Subject: The Davis Report - August 2008



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Don & Jeannie Davis
Strategic Church Network
PO Box 2304
Portsmouth, VA 23702

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Note that the funds are for "The Ministry of Don & Jeannie Davis"

For Correspondence and others ways to stay in Contact go to:

Email: dr@goasianetwork.org
Cell Phone: 757-375-1151

Don's Blogs:

- <http://dondavis.wordpress.com>
- <http://h2hmissions.wordpress.com>

Websites:

- www.strategicchurchnetwork.org
- www.race4theprize.org
- www.house2harvest.org
- www.hrscn.org

Instant Messenger at AIM & MSN:
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Dear Friends and Partners

August 2008

I can't believe that summer is more than half over! Where did July go? It was great to spend a few days with our daughter Elesha and her son Elijah over the 4th. We love spending time with our kids and grandkids. Debbie and her husband Jacob celebrated their first anniversary. Christie got a new job a Regent University and is now adjusting to her new responsibilities. Sarah and her husband Ramsey along with their two boys have just moved to Michigan to take a position with Master's Commission at an Assembly of God church. Other than all that, July has been somewhat calm.

Learning to Be Missional

Recently I was listening to a presentation by Alan Hirsch who shared a few things that caused me to reflect on what God is doing in our lives. One of the areas in which the Lord has directed us is to be a blessing and aware of the opportunities he brings to us on a daily basis. In Hirsch's presentation he talked about what it means to be missional. Now that is not the same as having a missions emphasis or doing missions. It's not even the same as having an active missions program in your church. It has to do with who you are, not what you do. Then what you do emerges from who you are as disciple of Jesus. In being missional he shared these three traits:

1. **See God differently** – as a missioning God. God is always doing mission – seeking and saving the lost, establishing His Kingdom in the lives, homes, cities and nations.
2. **See the Church differently** – as disciples called out to do the mission of God. We are to be imitators of God, therefore we are to be on the same mission as God. His mission is our mission. Instead of seeing the church as a recipient of God's benefits, or a gathering of worshipers, our focus should be to be more like him, a missioning people.
3. **See People differently** – as people created in the image of God

waiting to meet their King. Humanity is not the enemy of God nor the Church, but a people whom Christ died

for, even while they were sinners. So we see them with that potential, wanting to be a part of their lives and serving them, loving them, and forgiving them until they come to know Jesus and are transformed by his grace and power into citizens of the Kingdom of God.

This is where the Lord has us, learning to see God as He really is, to see His Church as she really is and to see our neighbor, humanity as it really is. About 2 years ago the Lord had us move to a neighborhood in Portsmouth, Virginia to begin to be a light to that community. Not in the way you would normally do it in a church evangelistic campaign or program, but to integrate our lives with the lives of our neighbors. That is one of the characteristics of being missional – **being in proximity of the world** we are called to reach. I had spent so many years being isolated from the world, almost living in “spiritual bubble” surrounded by Christians. Now we are attempting to live near those who are in need of Jesus. To be honest this is more difficult than we had imagined since our lives have been so segregated from those whom Jesus has called us to serve.

As we live in among, and serve our neighbors, we desire to do three things that will make a difference:

- **Mirror Jesus** – imitate Christ. But to do this we must know Him because the Gospel IS Jesus. Our level of intimacy with Jesus has become a priority. Not in the normal “let’s go to a worship service” intimacy, but a moment by moment conversation with our Lord so that we will see what He is doing, and then do what He does.
- **Depend on Jesus’ power and not our own.** What I mean is, instead of flaunting success or material wealth to the point of depicting a people who can do anything they wanted, we strive at being a people dependent on God’s power. This is another shift in our thinking that is taking some effort. In the past the Church has presented herself as having wealth, power and all the material strength she needs to build, buy all she needs. I always felt this was to show the prosperity of the Lord, but in reality it shows an arrogant and prideful heart. God forgive us and help us to present humility and be a people who are powerless so that only the power of Christ will shine. It should be our goal that our flesh or efforts will not take any glory.
- **Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom.** That is why we are here. As we truly develop friendships and become a part of our neighbors lives we can then speak the truth of the gospel to them not as hired preachers, or guilt manipulated door to door sales types, but out of the experience of being among them as friends. That way we can not only share our lives, but make disciples. Jesus never said go and make converts, or go and plant churches, he said go and make disciples. This means we become a part of people’s lives in a genuine way, and proclaim truth and life.

I share these things to encourage you to look around and see the opportunities the Lord has made for you to make disciples. It is refreshing and liberating to know that you don’t have to go off to some school somewhere, become a member of the clergy, spend hours in seminars and trainings, but merely get to know Christ more and more, live in proximity of the world we are called to reach and be that Jesus you have gotten to know where you live. Don’t try to impress others by your wealth, your knowledge or your religion; but remain meek and humble in the image of Christ and not in the image of religion. Then your opportunities to tell others about Christ will be genuine and effective.

One of the house churches in our area has done just that by becoming friends with some Asian Muslim refugees. They are teaching them English, how to live in the USA and become close friends with several of these families. They are certainly misplaced and in need of a friend. Maybe there are some folks like that near you that you can serve.

Opportunity to Help Don get to Dallas

On August 28th Don leaves for Dallas, Texas to facilitate the missions track at the *2008 National House Church Conference* hosted by House2House Ministries. Those who serve in this conference pay their way just like all the others, so Don needs to raise some of the funds needed to pay his airfare (\$285), hotel (\$550) and conference fees (\$235). The total cost for this five day trip will be about \$1,000.00. If you would like to help in the expense, send your contribution and let Don know it is for the Conference. For more information about the conference go to www.house2house.com On Sunday following the conference Don will be conducting a “round-table” discussion regarding launching the new ministry “**House2Harvest Network**” with missions and house church leaders from around the world.

Thank You!

Jeannie and I thank you for your continued support. As our support increases, we will be able to do more. But we are confident that this is in the Lord’s hands. Of course we will continue to serve as “missionaries” to our own community in Portsmouth and beyond, we are still working on the development of a ministry that will mobilize simple and house church networks (House2Harvest Network) to reach the unreached nations of the world. Progress is slow, but God is always on time. We are just wanting to be sensitive to His leading. There are a lot of things that I would like to do, but most of all I want to do what I see the Father doing. Your prayers are greatly needed!

God Bless You!

Don & Jeannie

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