



# WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA

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Number 2



## Purpose, Ministry, and Mission Part 2

Bobby B. Boaldin

This time last year we were in the middle of a series of sermons exploring our purpose, mission, and ministry as a congregation. We had been in our new facility on WindSong Drive only a few months and were exploring the direction that we would be taking as a congregation. Because it seemed to perfectly fit what the church should be, the elders at WindSong approved adopting a purpose statement that originated with a church in California. That statement is, "We believe a great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a great church."

As fulfilling that purpose became our primary goal, four questions that needed to be asked and answered became apparent if we were going to be successful. First, why does the church exist? That is, why did Jesus establish his church? Second, what are we at WindSong to be as a church? Specifically, who are we, and what are we as a congregation? Third, what are we to do as a church? In other words, what does God want done in the world by WindSong? Fourth, how are we to do it? That is, what methods will we apply to accomplish His purpose? This month we begin exploring the answer to the first question, "Why does the church (and specifically WindSong) exist?"

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## The Ship of Life

**Partners In Progress** is thrilled to announce the arrival of the "Ship of Life" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on January 22, 2007. The clinic ship can house a medical staff of up to twenty, plus the ships' crew. The vessel is equipped with modern medical technology and will provide health care to thousands of people living along the Mekong River.

In addition to the clinic boat the vast work of Partners In Progress in Cambodia includes evangelizing, planting churches, training church leaders, nutritional feeding for eight hundred children, a rice co-op, education, drilling fresh water wells, irrigation, and providing for orphans and widows.

We want all our friends to celebrate this wonderful event with us and to say thank you in the names of the "Forgotten People of Cambodia" for the hope you are providing them.



## WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME?

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. I dare say he didn't covet the task considering the difficulties Moses had experienced with such a reluctant people. Joshua didn't ask for the job. It was thrust upon him. God told him to arise, go over the Jordan River, and take the land of Canaan (A daunting task indeed).

"Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?' 'Neither,' he replied, 'but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.' Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, 'What message does my Lord have for his servant?'" (Joshua 5:13-14 NIV).

Look at Joshua in this passage. What would you have done in such a situation? Note Joshua's response: "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" That's the true spirit of obedience. Will it be my response? Will it be yours?

When the Jews, on the day of Pentecost, learned that Jesus was both Lord and Christ, they cried out, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Then, in a spirit of obedience, about three thousand repented and were baptized (Acts 2:37-41). You see that same kind of response in the life of Saul of Tarsus. After his encounter with Christ, this noted persecutor became an obedient servant, and an ardent professor of Christ.

In becoming a Christian, and living as a Christian, there's no better question to ask than that of Joshua's, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (I'm confident you will find the answer as you do your daily Bible reading).

**JOHN GIPSON**  
**WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST**



## The Trip Up the Mekong River

Bill McDonough

After our departure from the United States was delayed three days due to the big ice storm in Texas, we finally arrived in Phnom Penh just in time for me to switch suitcases and catch a plane to Saigon three hours later. **Dr. Rick Northen**, our project director, had preceded me to the shipyard by two days and things were readying for the departure when I arrived. Last minute customs, immigration and port authority clearances had to be obtained and by the next evening, Friday January 19th, we sailed out of the port.

The Mekong River is like a California freeway with craft of every size and shape crisscrossing lanes in all directions. However we had two able river pilots at the helm who took it all as part of a day's work, while Rick and I often wondered if we should put on a life jacket. It was a hair raising experience at times.

At night we would anchor "The Ship of Life" in mid stream when traffic cleared a little about 9 p.m. But we would fire up the big Caterpillar diesel engines again at 4:30 the next morning and off we would go through the fog and darkness. The voyage was a good test for our radar and sonar, which proved to need some adjustments. The shipyard crew of engineers and mechanics sent with us were always on hand to fine tune the systems as needed. Twice we made unexpected stops due to the dirty diesel fuel we had been sold. We changed filters and went on until we arrived in Phnom Penh, where the tanks were drained and cleaned, the fuel run through a special filter, and reloaded.

The border crossing from Vietnam into Cambodia brought flashbacks of all the same kinds of situations we encountered on our trips to Poland with the food convoys in the early 1980's. The difference was, I got to watch the shipyard officials who traveled with us jump through all the hoops and dodge the bribes and corrupt officials. Nevertheless it took us ten hours to clear the border.

By 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 22, twenty-four hours later than scheduled (which is about normal here) we sailed into Phnom Penh, with friends and family waiting on the pier to welcome us. Home at last. Thank God we were home at last.

Now the boat is being prepared for its maiden medical trip up the river. We are going through all the maintenance check lists, radio, satellite communication, and water filtering systems are being installed, furnishings and medical supplies are being brought on board, and additional personnel are being hired on to make "The Ship of Life" a wonderful working tool for the Lord.

I want to share a compliment with all of you that I received in your name while at the Annual Medical Evangelism Workshop in Dallas, Texas, earlier this month. A long term medical missionary came to me and said, after looking at our display and asking questions about sponsorship and our tenure of working together, "There are few congregations among us that have what it takes to put together and maintain a work like Partners in Progress for so many years." And I say Amen. Thank you, and may the Lord continue to bless you and the work we are involved in together.

## Purpose—from Page 1

At least five purposes are revealed in the Bible for the existence of the New Testament church. One of these is: The church exists to celebrate God's presence. This purpose is affirmed in the Great Commandment, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind." Part of the activity of the Body is the praise and adoration of God. Worship, at its very core, is an expression of love toward God. Worship is a time when we collectively affirm who God is, what He has done in the world, and what He is doing in our lives. Biblical worship is the celebration of God's presence and the active surrender of one's will to the will of the Father. The aim of worship is to submit to God in every area of our life. We are not only to recognize who God is and what He has done, but we also are to respond by bending our will to the will of the one we praise. Part of the purpose of WindSong is to celebrate God's presence.

Next month we will continue our examination of the purpose of the New Testament church as we consider our responsibilities to each other and to the world. To God be the glory, honor and praise forever!

## CONNECTIONS

Welcome to **Bobbie Freeman** and **Leatrice Reynolds**, who placed membership with us recently. Bobbie moved here from San Antonio, Texas, and Leatrice moved from Morrilton, Arkansas. Be sure to meet Bobbie and Leatrice, if you have not already done so, and let each of them know how happy we are that they decided to work with us at WindSong.

**Dottie Schraudt** retired on December 8, 2006. Congratulations, Dottie.

Congratulations to **Steve** and **Wynne Stripling** on the birth of a daughter, **Danielle Stripling**, on December 30, 2006, in Prosper, Texas. Congratulations also go to the proud grandparents, **Jim** and **Linda Stripling**.

**Jessica McCullough** is moving to Missoula, Montana. We will miss her, and we wish Jessica all the best in her new home.

Congratulations to **Sarah Heffley**, **Bill** and **Jane Heffley's** daughter, who was sworn in Monday, January 8, as a Judge on the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

Congratulations to **Dr. Pamela Womack**, daughter of **Edwina Cox** and sister of **Ray Cox, Jr.**, who was recently appointed President of Harding Academy in Memphis, Tennessee.

Congratulations to **Lindsay Hickerson** on her new job as Assistant Manager at the Dollar Tree in Searcy, Arkansas.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**OUR JANUARY RECORD**

Average Attendance.....201  
Average Contribution.....\$10,052

Membership

**Bobbie Freeman**  
**Leatrice Reynolds**

*With Sympathy To...*

**Tim, Carolyn, Jason, and Kristofer Bredlow** on the death of Tim's father, **Russell Bredlow**, on Thursday, December, 28. The funeral was Saturday, December 30, in England, Arkansas.

The family of **Pat Branch**, who died Thursday, January 18. The funeral was Saturday, January 20, in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

**25th Annual International Health Care Foundation Medical Missions Conference  
January 2007—Dallas, Texas**



**Troy and Tabatha Snowbarger** are scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh, March 2007, to take over the developmental work of **Partners In Progress** in Cambodia.



**WindSong Growth Groups Begin a New Study**



The week of **February 11**, our growth groups will begin a new series of study entitled:

**Living the Dream of Jesus:  
How to Be the Church**

Detailed brochures are available in the foyer. If you aren't meeting with a growth group, please visit the one of your choice, or see **Tony Fowler, Don Johnson, or Kelly Shields**.

