

News from the Rock

The Woodward's in the San Juans



January 2009

Infocus Family Year End Report

Hello friends and family,

Grace and Peace to you in the New Year!

God continues to lead us and guide us in serving Him. An ongoing prayer of ours is "God expand our territory". He is faithful to answer that prayer, showing us a variety of ways to serve in our passions and gifting.

Our focus continues to be marriages and families. Through a recommendation from our 86 year old friend, Christian Johnson, we purchased and previewed, *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage*, a video conference that is being used powerfully to turn marriages around in this culture. We have presented this material in two formats thus far, large group video seminar in Friday Harbor, and through a small group study. In each instance, God has focused people on what is right and good about their marriage relationship and given couples hope.

A connection was made through *Laugh Your Way* ministries which gave us the opportunity to invest in our own marriage. We were mentored via weekly phone calls through some material called "The Fulfilled Couple". We enjoyed doing something for just us, allowing someone else to pour into our married lives. Jane Duberstein from *Fulfilled Couple* mentored us through Larry Bilotta's life giving teaching.

We are going to be trained as conference presenters in March 2009, which will enable us to offer Laugh Your Way seminars to larger groups of people in the future. We will also be equipped to do a segment of the conference live with couples, which will make it more engaging and fun.

Upcoming Laugh Your Way Video Marriage Conferences which we will facilitate in 2009 include: February 13-14th at Burlington Christ the King, March 28th in Whittier, CA at Plymouth Congregational Church. While in Southern California, one of our supporters has invited us to visit a mission birthed by God through one man and his family, Rancho Sordo Mudo, a school for deaf children outside of Ensenada, Mexico. A documentary film has been made, along with a small group study from this story, which we hope to share with the Christ the King Church network for use in small group ministry.

After being exposed to *Laugh Your Way*, we are now connecting with couples who desire to be mentored two by two and want to journey with us in small group study with *The Flag Page*, which is part of the *Laugh Your Way* presentation. Mentoring/Counseling is something we offer as God leads. Outside of church pastors on San Juan Island, we are one of the only couples doing this work.

This past year as part of our outreach to families, we hosted a parenting workshop in our home. Dr. Paul Creelman from Burlington CTK was our presenter. 14 couples joined us for a lively discussion centered on the challenges parents face today in raising kids of all ages. We are exploring small group materials which will expand Paul Creelman's teaching.

Equipping leaders in the family, specifically men, has been one of my passions in ministry. The beauty of this is that God ministers his love and encouragement to me through the men I meet with here in the islands. Whether I'm leading small group studies like, The Great Adventure or Walking with God, the Holy Spirit teaches and grows me in community with the guys. Powerful! I really don't think we grow apart from community. That is my observation and experience.

Right now, I'm part of a *3 is Enough* group, just three guys gathered together to pray, grow and serve. It is a pilot group, and idea birthed from Todd Hunter, www.3isenough.org. There is something special about meeting as a threesome. I can't put my finger on it, and when I do, you'll hear about it in a prayer letter.



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In His Service,

Vic and Monique

God has opened the door for us into the Hispanic community here in Friday Harbor over the last three years through a program called, *Strengthening Families*. This has led to our family caring for a little 5 year old Mexican boy. Adolfo has been living with us since early December. Adolfo's mom needed some time adjusting to life with a new baby, born just after Christmas. Enter in the Holy Spirit and His stirring our hearts to help this little guy and his family. I'm continuing my involvement with this excellent program in 2009.

We have decided to commit ourselves, as a family, to learning Spanish, so that we can communicate, build deeper relationships and share the hope we have in Christ, expecting God to open more doors for us in the future.

Basketball is a Woodward family passion and it is a gateway to relationships for all of us in our community. Monique and I are currently involved in coaching all levels. This past summer we all took part in a basketball camp, NBC camps, in Spokane. It was a time for fun, growing, praying, learning, equipping, sharing Jesus and meeting new friends. This summer we are considering leading a missions team to the Dominican Republic to teach basketball skills, organize tournaments and share Christ with kids and adults from several villages.

Disciple-making is a core thread that runs throughout *InFocus Family Ministries*. It is our command from God and it happens in diverse ways. For example; Monique and I both are involved in exercise groups where relationships are built, faith journeys are encouraged, prayer happens which leads to serving others. It is a beautiful example of what God wants to do with all of us, mainly lead us out of our "church box" and into the world that awaits a touch of His love, acceptance and forgiveness.

Giving to our ministry remains consistent and we are extremely grateful for your prayers. We continue to seek new relationships with churches and partners who can support us in prayer and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you might connect us with people for the purposes of advancing His Kingdom, building on the foundation our God designed, marriage and family.

In His Service,

Vic and Monique

Vic and Monique Woodward
InFocus Family Ministries



The Woodward's on the ferry
From left to right front row , Adolfo, Marti, Brian, Damon, Lindsey; back row—Tom, Ellie, Amy, Vic, Monique, Carly and Carolyn

P.S. Read more about the Woodward family Christmas and God's presence in our lives on the internet at www.woodwards.blogspot.com