

Of Bears and Bulls

Dear friends,

The economy may have gone to the bears but we're delighted to report that this last month we saw some of the most bullish progress, ministry-wise, that we've seen in a while.



Robin had a tremendous trip to Thailand, participating in the 11th Global Consultation of the Missions Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA). She was part of a small group of leaders that had been invited to form a task force for Arts in Mission.

Their group was warmly accepted by the 250 delegates from over 50 nations. In fact, in the final plenary session of the Consultation, she was invited to lead this international gathering in a Sakha *ohuokai* (call-and-response round dance) to celebrate the event. Of course, she sang it in English so that people could echo her; she says it was a marvelous worship rehearsal for heaven! Our Sakha brothers and sisters will be thrilled to hear their culture was honored this way.

Robin was also given an opportunity to speak on a plenary panel about the importance of worship as a core value in mission; she reports that this led to many interesting conversations with people afterwards. We expect that the activities of the new task force will have long-term impact in the mission world because of the extensive reach of the WEA. You can see a press release about the event at this URL:

<http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/view.htm?id=2200>

Office Bears

Along with everyone else, Robin and I lost

ground financially this year. Our income dropped \$650/month, which for our modest lifestyle is serious.

We haven't talked to you about this all year because *we are so very grateful* to all

our partners; we don't feel sorry for ourselves and we certainly *do* empathize with supporters who have lost so much this year yet continue to faithfully stand with us.

As 2008 slumped, OM leaders had to make some tough decisions that touch our support levels: Fees assessed on support gifts will rise from the current 2% to 7% next month (Jan. 2009) and then go to 12% in January of 2010.

In short, Robin and I need to raise \$1,300/month more to both fund our OM ministry expenses and to bring our support level back up to what it was.

As I said, our partners have faithfully stood with us in ministry for a great many years—25 and counting for many of them. We've been loathe to ask our supporters to consider raising the amount they donate when so many are having serious financial challenges of their own.

Still, bullishly even, we dare to look ahead to better days and ask you to remember us in your year-end giving and ministry plans for 2009. Perhaps it's been many years since you've given regularly to our ministry. Maybe it's been a long time since you increased your support. Over time, inflation has gradually gnawed away at our income.



We want to continue not only to pay for the ordinary expenses of life but also travel to hard-to-reach places to do ministry work there on your behalf and our Lord's glory. Would you please pray about this?

Happily, there's a bit of good news for those over 70½--if you get in on it quickly. As you pray about supporting us, we want you to know of an opportunity to support us while capitalizing on a new tax law.



The recent financial "bailout" package approved by Congress included a provision that lets people over the age of 70½ (who are required by law to take a mandatory distribution from their IRA) to make a gift directly to charity. Instead of owing taxes on the IRA distribution, the owner receives credit towards the mandatory distribution and the ministry receives a blessing!

If that describes you, your plan administrator will have the forms and details necessary to make an IRA Charitable Rollover for such a gift, but you'll need to act before the end of the year to take advantage of the credit towards 2008's mandatory distribution.

If you believe it's time to adjust your giving toward our ministry, we invite you to use the enclosed card to do so. Thank you!

Family News

Katherine's Senior Piano Recital went great! Now really, I'm not just saying that because I'm some kind of biased, fawning parent. It's just that she was AWESOME!



Our loved ones flocked from as far away as California and even Fairbanks, Alaska, then stayed on for Thanksgiving; this vacation was terrific!

Katherine spent most of her Thanksgiving vacation working on applying to grad schools: Eastman (Rochester), Peabody (Baltimore), and USC (Los Angeles) are all in the running. She'll do live auditions in January and February, so please pray for the Lord's direction and for generous scholarships!

We praise the Lord for His blessings on:

- Robin's productive trip to Thailand
- Katherine's recital

Please pray for:

- Financial support needs in 2009. Oy!
- Choice of grad school for Katherine

Thank you for your many prayers and support in 2008. We love our ministry and rejoice in having such great partners!

Yours in Him,

Bill and Robin

E-mail: Bill@BillandRobinHarris.com Robin@BillandRobinHarris.com

Write/Phone Us: 70 Saint Andrews Walk, Sharpsburg, GA 30277 (770) 990-6924

Donations: Operation Mobilization, P.O. Box 444, Tyrone, GA 30290 (770) 631-0432

Website: www.billandrobinharris.com **Book Orders:** Books@BillandRobinHarris.com

Bill and Robin Harris are faith-based missionaries serving with Operation Mobilization in Tyrone, GA. Operation Mobilization is a recognized IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations to Operation Mobilization are tax deductible and can be mailed to Operation Mobilization, P.O. Box 444, Tyrone, GA 30290.