

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

# Caleb

## REPORT

SPRING 2007

The Caleb Report is the quarterly newsletter of the SEND Ministries  
Department of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

## SETTLING FOR GOD

by Carmalita Y. Miller

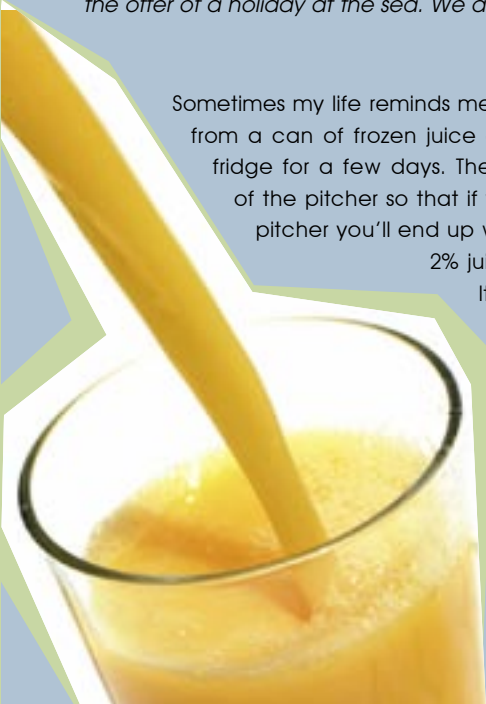
*Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*

--C.S. Lewis, in *The Weight of Glory*

Sometimes my life reminds me of a pitcher of orange juice that was made from a can of frozen juice concentrate and then left untouched in the fridge for a few days. The juice concentrate separates to the bottom of the pitcher so that if you pour juice into a glass without stirring the pitcher you'll end up with the nonrefreshing taste of 98% water and 2% juice apportioned from the top of the pitcher.

It's this separation that I see in my life. Thoughts and beliefs, hopes and desires watered down by outside influences and internal mind games, actions made sluggish by a heaviness that seems to have settled in my back, legs and feet.

Settling continues and I find myself lowering the bar that I feel that God has asked me to set for myself—it's just a few inches—how much difference will it really make? Next thing I know, months have passed and when I revisit the bar, I realize that instead of



being enrolled in high jump I've settled for the bunny hop. And the crazy thing is the bunny hop looks pretty appealing. That high jump stuff was so demanding. So much practice, not enough down time, and all that discipline...what was I thinking?

I imagine Aaron was thinking similar thoughts when he settled for a golden calf. King Saul and his company could relate—they were willing to be ruled by the terrorist Goliath. How about David settling for lust, Judas satiated by money, Pilate content with the approval of the masses? And then there's my story and yours...we've all been there. Settling simply means that we've become content with and/or are pursuing something less than what God has for us.

It all started in the Garden of Eden. Pre-sin, everything about the Garden including Adam and Eve was a perfect display of God's glory. Adam and Eve were pure and holy, without any trace of guilt. Think what that must of have been like never to have given in to temptation. To know God without seeing Him through the filter of our fallenness. To be naked spiritually, emotionally, physically before God and each other and to be without sin. We're so far from the Garden that it's unimaginable. But when God told Adam and Eve to fill the earth, in effect He was saying, "Fill the earth with my Glory." That's His greatest desire—the earth full of His glory.

Entertaining the snake led to disobedience, that one tiny act with monstrous results. Adam and Eve settled for God-like knowledge when they could have known their Creator in all His glory. God would allow His glory to be compromised by their disobedience, and so for Adam and Eve the price of settling was the curse that weighed them down the rest of their lives.

Settling weighs us down as well. We may not think of it as being charmed by a snake, but look at the way we pad our lives all the while ignoring yellow and red flags. We say: "I should go to this school, get this job, have this thing, make this investment. I should marry this person, buy this house, send the kids to this school." On and on until so much stuff collects around us that it's like we're riding in an armored limo in a motorcade. Everything we've collected serves to cushion any possible fall. The problem is that we were made to ride motorcycles under clear blue sky with

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miles and miles of open road stretching before us. Even if we don't have the latest and the greatest, the question remains: is what we have—possession, relationship, position, etc.—what we're called to be about or is it weighing us down, keeping us from what God is asking of us?

By Genesis 11 sin had grown to the point that people believed they were completely independent from God. They settled on making a name for themselves and decided to build a monument to establish their fame. God, ever zealous for His glory, intervened, confused their language, and the people were scattered as a result. Abram's ancestors were part of the scattering. Terah, Abram's father, decided to move his family and their families to the land of Canaan, but when they arrived in Haran, they settled there instead. And that's where Terah died. Let me say this again: Terah was meant for Canaan but settled in Heran, and where he settled, he died.

“where have you SETTLED?  
are you willing to DIE there?  
...is your HEART OPEN to hearing a word from the Lord?”

If we're honest, every single one of us can relate to this story in some way or other. We start out saying no to God on one teensy weensy little thing, then it grows and soon we find ourselves building monuments to ourselves in order to show the world how great we are. We know we're meant for Canaan but we decide to settle in Haran. And just like Terah, where you settle is where you'll die.<sup>1</sup>

Genesis 11 is the context for Abram's calling and blessing. God was not content to let his glory go unnoticed on earth so he called and blessed Abram, a man who had settled for Haran. God said, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen 12.1-3). All it took was a word from God to break Abram out of his settled state.

My questions to you are: Where have you settled? Are you willing to die there? And is your heart open to hearing a word from the Lord?

Finally, let me encourage you with this truth: God never settles for less than He's called you to be. You will never hear Him say “Child, I'm calling you to (fill in the blank), but it's all right if you decide to do something else instead.” He is committed to displaying His glory on earth through your life. Don't settle, friend. Please don't be content with anything less than His Glory.

*<sup>1</sup> This idea settling and the biblical progression from Genesis 1 to 12 was the foundation of a talk given by Brenda Saltar McNeil at Urbana 2006, St Louis, MO.*

# SEND house IMPORTS

Below are artifacts that REACHers have brought back from their outreach locations. Can you IDENTIFY WHERE the souvenirs came from & WHAT REACH team acquired them?

Send your answers to:  
[angela@rmmoffice.org](mailto:angela@rmmoffice.org)

Winners will be recognized  
in the next report!



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## ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

### BIRTHS

Troy (R 95) and Rachel Miller had a baby boy, Grant Isaiah, on September 28, 2006

Joe and Renee (Miller R 99, 01) had a baby girl, Addison Ray, on January 13, 2007

### MARRIAGES

Carla Eby (R 03) married Caleb Hilty on January 13, 2007

Christa Kolp (R 01) married Brian Mummau on October 21, 2006

Erika Schrock (R 00, S 04) married Sheldon Troyer on December 16, 2006

### MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS

Kevin (S 93) and Wendy Mayer have been appointed as missionaries to Spain for 3 years.

# BETWEEN YOU AND ME

by Todd Miller  
Director of the SEND Department



## What is the cost of following Christ?

In the book *The Heavenly Man*, Brother Yun shares about his life and what he gladly endured for the cause of Christ. Brother Yun spent several years in Asian prisons on several occasions because of his tenacity in following after Christ. While in prison he was continually beaten and tortured. At one point they smashed his legs from the knees down so there would be no chance of escape.

During his times of freedom he faithfully disciplined believers and led many to the Lord. After he was captured and re-sentenced to prison, he said this was God's way of helping him refocus on the Lord. He discovered that God is more concerned with our hearts than even our work for Him. How is your heart right now? Are you following after Him with your whole heart, life, and everything you've got?

Our Asian brothers and sisters in the Lord, who have almost no earthly possessions, gather enough funds for a one-way ticket to go to the most unreached people. They never plan to see their loved ones again. They expect that the future holds intense persecution and martyrdom. Their discipleship training program includes sessions on how to suffer and die for the Lord, how to witness to the guards in prison and on the way to execution, and how to jump from a second-story window. Intense, huh?

Brother Yun says, "Don't pray for the persecution to stop! We shouldn't pray for a lighter load to carry, but a stronger back to endure! Then the world will see that God is with us, empowering us to live in a way that reflects His love and power... If we stay in one place and refuse to advance until we've completely finished the job there, we'll never be able to impact the world with the Gospel."

Brother Yun learned that, "When the Lord tells us to do something there is no time for discussion or rationale, regardless of the situation we face. When we are sure God has told us to act... blind obedience is called for. Not to obey God implies that we are wiser than He is, and that we know better how to run our lives than He does."

All this challenges me— this willingness to gladly surrender all for the sake of our Lord. I am compelled to pray, "Lord, help me to die to myself. God, whatever you want, help me to be willing! Help me not to be lazy and apathetic in a time of war. Even as I am here (USA), I desire to daily take up the cross and reach out to those around me."

What is God asking of you? Ask Him to speak clearly to you. Are you ready and willing to count the cost, send more workers, or perhaps... to even go yourself?



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