

Transitions ...

GODSPEED MISSIONARY CARE

POINTS of PRAISE!

- God's provision of new directions and staff for Godspeed
- "Final" approval of plans for the respite property
- Faithful ministry partners who undergird the ministry with prayer and financial support
- That God has allowed us to be part of His Kingdom work

POINTS for PRAYER

- Health concerns: Barney & Karen's family; other staff members' immediate families
- For wisdom and direction under new leadership
- For the physical, emotional, spiritual and financial needs of missionaries serving around the world
- For provision of funds for ministries offered by Godspeed

"GDSPD"

Godspeed: From Middle English, *May God prosper (you)*: God + spede, third person sing. present subjunctive of speden, *to prosper*

"GDSPD"...proclaimed the license plate on the car just in front of me as I pulled away from the hospital doctor's lot almost 17 years ago. Only a few months before we had the first opportunity to travel to Russia to work with missionaries affiliated with the CoMission Project, and I had seen that there was a place for a psychiatrist to serve on the mission field. But I was still in full time practice in Maryland, Karen was directing a crisis pregnancy center, and our lives were full. Nevertheless, the small part of my brain where God planted this seed continued to call, even in the midst of rushing to the office after hospital rounds. "Maybe we could start some type of organization" I thought. "Maybe it could provide a means to organize

trips and communication. But what could we call it?", I mulled. And even in the midst of my preoccupation I couldn't help but notice the aging white Cadillac with the distinctive plate:



GDSPD. "Godspeed! What a great name! We'll call it GODSPEED!" And thus started the journey, discovering the intricacies of setting up a charitable organization, then over several years gradually decreasing my private practice (Karen

resigning from her position with the pregnancy center to begin her studies in Biblical counseling to travel, teach, and serve alongside me) as we made repeated trips to Russia and Switzerland working with CoMission participants. In 1998, I left the private practice of psychiatry to be on a full time basis with Godspeed, as the scope of our services enlarged to other countries. We moved to South Carolina in 2003 to be closer to multiple mission organization headquarters; this led to the evolution of a near-fulltime office practice once again, serving missionaries in training or home assignment in the Southeast US, as well as those serving internationally who chose to come to us rather than having us come to them. The donation of a parcel of land near the office has brought us closer to the goal of short term residence



Carey Hargis, Barney Davis, Becky Magnuson

capability. An enlarging circle of medical and dental professionals and Christian counselors have agreed to make their services available to the missionaries who contact us. Things have been getting overwhelming, with Karen's health issues and other family responsibilities increasing more quickly than the number of ministry opportunities and obligations. "The tasks are too many, Lord!", I prayed, "How can I manage all these numbers?"

The numbers over 17 years are impressive: On-site visitations in **19 countries**, some of them many times. Service to **40 mission agencies** and churches. More than **a half-million air miles** spread over more airlines than I can recall, none with coach class seats designed for someone of my tall frame. The massive privilege of being allowed access into the personal lives of **more than 500 missionaries**, and through conferences and teaching opportunities the chance to speak to **countless more**. Enough e-mails to overwhelm several hard drives. Innumerable full sight views of **God arranging, providing, revealing** His answers to our prayers. Experiencing the **immediate and sustained effects of all of your prayers** and those of thousands of people around the world. Marveling at abundant, gracious financial support of the ministry: **more than \$860,000 from 454 individuals and 54 businesses, churches, and organizations.**

"So, how has God revealed His answers to those prayers?"

So, how has God revealed His answers to those prayers? First of all, **He has increased our staff.** He brought **Erik Troyer** into my life four years ago—an experienced missionary now with counseling certification, he has returned to the field to develop a member care center in Asia, connecting Godspeed with workers half-way around the world. God brought **Greg Buffkin** into my life in 2008; Greg has taken on the coordination of member care connections with other professionals in the Florence, SC area, extending our regional radius of response. God introduced me to our office manager **Carey Hargis** during my short term stint with a local Christian counseling center—she is now the Godspeed coordinator of everything from phone calls to web contacts to scheduling. God brought **Becky Magnuson** into our circle three years ago while she was working with our sister organization Missionary Resources Connection.

Becky, with graduate training in public health administration, missionary experience in India, and now a graduate degree in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Formation, has a scope of training and experience that will take Godspeed into new areas of service and capability. Along with the additional counselors and medical consultants who are available to the ministry, Godspeed can now do more, for more, in more places than ever before. As my own part of the process decreases, God is moving ahead in more ways than I could have ever imagined.

The Godspeed Board of Directors approved leadership changes when they met in February this year: Becky is now the Executive Director and I have stepped from that role into that of CEO/Clinical Facilitator. I will still be coming to the office as often as possible, providing consultation for missionaries as well as training and supervision of some of the other counselors who are now affiliated with Godspeed. Through e-mail and Skype video I can stay in touch with folks from home or office, without having to suffer the effects of too many hours in a too small airline seat.

Karen and I are so grateful for all the prayers past and present; they are the best way you can continue to support us personally. Your financial support of the ministry need not change; from the very beginning, each contributor has given to the ministry of Godspeed rather than the support of any individual; this was an early Board of Directors decision, and a wise one that has prepared us for the transition and growth that God is making happen even now. **The ripple effects of every donation now reach even further, impacting the lives and work of more and more missionaries.**

And what about the origin of that "GDSPD" name? Several years later, I met the owner of the white Cadillac with the license plate that God had strategically placed in my path one morning 17 years ago; his last name was *Goodspeed*; it was simply a vanity plate with no other meaning.

But God had His plans for what was to be for a ministry called Godspeed...and clearly He has still more to come!

With great gratitude to Him and to you, I wish you **Godspeed...**

Barney, for Karen too



Meet Becky Magnuson Executive Director of Godspeed

Recently I handed a friend my new Godspeed business card. He took a look at the letters following my name and exclaimed, "What is this! Becky Magnuson, O.D., M.P.H., M.A.?" His suggestion that the letters could stand for "Overdrive, Miles per Hour, and Maximum Acceleration" could speak of a former way of life for me, something much different from that of today. I have come a long way from when I received both my Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degrees from The Ohio State University in the early 80s. Back then I was not much interested in Christianity, nor mission work. Instead I was focused on my own ambitions and achievements, which, after a few years practicing optometry in various settings in my home state of Ohio, led me to a position at Allergan, Inc., in southern California, which evolved over the next decade from research optometrist to clinical research manager, as I ambitiously sought to climb the proverbial corporate ladder.

But something changed in me over those years—my fast-paced lifestyle appeared glamorous on the outside, but was empty and shallow on the inside. I yearned for meaning and depth in my life, which led me on a rocky road that brought me to a church where I was

introduced to the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. As I chose to follow Him, I found much healing to the wounds and losses in my life, and a slower pace that restored my soul. I began to sense God's call to foreign missions through an Allergan sponsored business trip to India. Within the year, I resigned my position, but was retained part-time as a consultant, while I pursued a Master in Public Health (M.P.H.) degree at Loma Linda University. My major was International Health—a field that well prepared me for the three year term that I served in India working as a consultant to village health and development projects in northern India.

But some life changes take longer and pathways are rarely smooth. As a missionary I desired to help wherever I could and be all I could be for all who made requests of my time and skills. "Not now" and "No" were difficult concepts for me to convey. I enjoyed the challenges and variety of my work and loved the Indian believers among whom I served, but overwork began to take its toll. Added to this was my mother's diagnosis and battle with metastatic breast cancer back in the US, drawing me home for a year in the midst of my term. These events precipitated my two week stay at

a missionary care center in PA. That two weeks of special care provided the nurture and rest that I needed to ride out the current crisis, taught me new skills on how to cope, and additionally, planted the seeds of desire to become a counselor and care-giver to missionaries.

After completing my term in India, I enrolled at Columbia International University (CIU) in 2006, completing my degree requirements for a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Formation in early 2009. God, again, has changed the direction of my life while in school here. The first change is that Columbia has become my home base, as I met my husband, David, here and we were married on May 31, 2008. Dave has missionary experience himself—13 years on Bonaire with Trans World Radio. His current ministry is working as Assistant Director of Maintenance at CIU. The second change is my new role as Executive Director of Godspeed Missionary Care—a role in the field for which God had been preparing me! I pray that He will use my O.D., M.P.H., M.A. life experiences for His purposes in caring for the needs of missionaries who have grown weary, lest they lose heart.



A Place for Respite

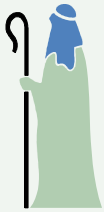
Missionaries often work countless hours under extreme conditions. Research has shown that 50% return from the field before the end of their first term (Stearns, 2006). This can be for a variety of reasons such as family illness or burnout. Political unrest is but one example of what they may face on the field. Just as those in combat, missionaries may need debriefing to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder or other effects.



Godspeed property
near Broad River

These statistics highlight the need for respite for missionaries. Godspeed services will be expanding beyond clinical links and counseling. Planning is underway to use this five acres of land that was given to the ministry as a place of respite for missionaries.

Respite is defined as "an interval of rest or relief." The Good Shepherd, Jesus Himself, called to the weary and burdened, "Come to me, ... and I will give you rest." **Selah**—pause and listen **Amen**—may it be so!



GODSPEED MISSIONARY CARE

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We would love to hear from you! Please drop us a note or e-mail about what God is doing in your own life. You can also use the enclosed envelope for financial contributions to the ministry. If you have an special interest in contributing toward the Respite building fund, just add a note to that effect. All contributions whether to the general operating account or the building fund are tax deductible in accordance with IRS laws.

Godspeed, A Missionary Care Corporation
FEIN 52-1863010

What is Godspeed Missionary Care?

Godspeed, A Missionary Care Corporation, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, founded in Maryland in 1994. Missionaries often find themselves in situations of stress, conflict, or medical concern where care is not accessible or affordable. We strive to connect those in such need with appropriate resources.

Currently, we can provide ...

- Clinical psychiatric care and counseling
- Referrals for general healthcare
- Pastoral counseling and spiritual guidance
- Consultation on-site for missionaries on the field

In the future we hope to ...

- Network with regional churches and mission agencies for greater coverage for missionary care
- Provide missionary care services in other international fields
- Offer respite to missionaries in a peaceful, rural setting
- Expand our missionary care programs and services, as God leads

We are ...

- Dr. Barney Davis, CEO, Clinical Facilitator
- Becky Magnuson, Executive Director
- Carey Hargis, Office Manager
- Greg Buffkin, Staff Associate
- Erik Troyer, Clinical Associate



MISSION STATEMENT

Godspeed is a Christ-centered faith ministry dedicated to equipping and enabling missionaries to fulfill their purpose and calling, by providing holistic assessments and recommendations for management of the situational, emotional, and physical stresses that they may experience.