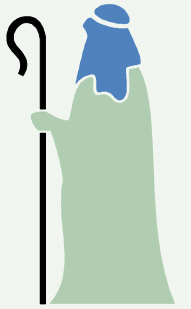


# The Shepherd's Staff



GODSPEED MISSIONARY CARE

## Transitions: The Ripple Effect

### POINTS OF PRAISE

- God's hand helping us to navigate the waters of transition
- Expanded international ministry in Africa and Asia
- Building plans and estimates in place for *Shepherd's Rest* Respite Center
- New expanded office space for Godspeed anticipated in 2010

### POINTS FOR PRAYER

- For ongoing health challenges of our staff members and their families
- For wisdom and guidance for Godspeed Board and staff as we meet future waves of change
- For needed funds to continue daily operations of Godspeed, its ministries and for Respite Center development
- For the physical, emotional, spiritual and financial needs of missionaries serving around the world

The effect of transitions in people's lives and in organizations can be compared to ripples on water after a pebble or a rock is tossed into a pool. The ripples keep expanding and making waves for quite some time after the initial impact. The waves can be either small or large, depending on the size of the object that created them. **Picture a handful of pebbles tossed at the same time.** While each individual pebble may have only small impact on its own, when combined with others, **the resulting waves are either larger or more chaotic** as the ripples expand out, making the water rough and choppy, no longer a quiet and tranquil pool.

Godspeed's May newsletter "Transitions" highlighted multiple changes that have taken place in the organization. Each of these changes has had a ripple effect of its own—and impact on the others. **In this newsletter you will read about additional transitions—**

**Barney's sabbatical, Becky's upcoming ministry trip to India, our new internationally based field staff, Willie and Caren Van Der Merwe, and more.**

System changes have come along with changes in personnel. **Here are some of the major projects of the last few months:** We have established an **updated electronic accounting system**, prepared



documents and files for the **new pastoral counseling ministry**, pursued permits and **plans for buildings on the Respite Center property**, worked through setting up accounts for tracking the **support of new staff members** and **redesigned the website.**

And, through all these transitions we have **continued to care for**

**missionaries and build harmonious relationships among new staff members.**

Merriam-Webster.com offers this definition for **transition:** "a: *passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another; change;* b: *a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.*" **Missionary life is about transition—the changes that come when passing from one place to another. Adapting to change is becoming changed ourselves in the process. Missionaries take on a new language, clothes, food, way of life—multitudes of new forms. When too many changes in life occur in quick succession there are ripples—and stress. Helping missionaries cope with transition is a common and frequent theme in our care of them. We are calmed by heeding these reminders ourselves.**

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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. Please specify one of the following accounts for your contribution; unspecified funds will be placed in the General Operating Account.

- Godspeed General Operating Account
- *Shepherd's Rest* Respite Center Account
- Davis Ministry Account
- Magnuson Ministry Account
- Van Der Merwe Ministry Account
- Van Der Merwe Support Account

Contributions to the ministry of Godspeed Missionary Care are tax deductible in accordance with IRS law.

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## New Fish in the Pond

We welcomed **Willie and Caren Van Der Merwe to the Godspeed team** at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Godspeed Board of Directors. Willie and Caren were raised in South Africa where Willie finished his graduate studies in **Theology and Clinical Psychology** in 1984. They worked for a number of years in **Southern Africa** in industry and private practices as a clinical psychologist/ management consultant (Willie) and physical therapist (Caren). In 1996 they became staff with Campus Crusade for Christ International (CCCI). They served in **Riga, Latvia**

until 1999, at CCCI's headquarters in Human Resources Florida until 2003 and in **France and Germany** as the **Member Care Director for North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia** until 2009. Their older son Ruco and his wife Kristi are serving with Samaritan's Purse in Uganda Africa. Younger son Hugo is a senior at Black Forest Academy in Germany. After Hugo's graduation, **Willie and Caren plan to relocate to Namibia**, where they will be available to provide field based missionary care services.



Kristi Ruco Hugo Caren Willie  
The Van Der Merwe Family

## The Westward Flowing Current: a note from Barney Davis

### "Go west, young man, go west."

John B. L. Soule, quoted by Horace Greeley,  
New York Times 1851

**"You hem me in -- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me...Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast..."**

From the director of music; of David. A psalm.  
Psalm 139:5,9-10. circa 1400 B.C

**Texas. Maryland. South Carolina. Quite a few other places around the world** visited over the past sixteen years. The Lord has taken Karen and me to wonderful locations, each with its own special collection of friends and experiences, each the right place, right time, right opportunity to see God at work, each one accompanied by the feeling of "o.k., God, we could stay here for the rest of our lives". Yet we have worked with so many missionaries who for reasons of calling or family commitment have found themselves on the road toward yet another new or different place, not always one of their choosing or expectation. **And now, it is our turn.**

**As health and family issues take precedence, I have asked the Godspeed Board of Directors for a sabbatical leave effective January 1, 2010.** The most immediate effect of this change will be that I will be working from home, without direct office responsibilities or scheduled commitments. As soon as practical Karen and I will be headed west to establish a new home base in Arizona, with a secondary base in Texas. This will put us in immediate proximity to our younger daughter in Arizona, settled in time for the arrival of our new grandchild in June. With easier "commute" possibilities between Phoenix and Austin we will also be more available to our

*...these events are awash in evidence of His presence, purpose, and provision.*

older daughter and grandchildren, as well as my parents, all in Texas. At this point in our lives, we need and want to be closer to family, and our family needs and wants us closer.

**The ministry of Godspeed will continue, and I will still be part of it.** The Columbia home office continues with stellar leadership, and counsel/consultation/care is still available for those who come to Columbia or live nearby. As funding permits, we will be entering the building phase of the respite center. Our connections with partners in Indonesia and Europe (eventually, Africa) are actively growing even as I write. Through the marvelous capability of video Skype, I can be in regular communication with those centers as well as the home office staff, providing supervision and clinical advice as the situations permit. I hope to have time to do some writing, and refresh some very rusty language skills. **In short, as Karen and I care for each other and enjoy some family time, there will still be plenty to do.**

This sequence of events is not one we had anticipated. I confess that I have sometimes gone to God from a perspective of feeling afflicted, only to find over these past weeks **that these events are awash in evidence of His presence, purpose, and provision.**

So, we move on to the next place, one to which God is clearly calling, drawing, sending, and preparing for us. As always, we ask for and cherish your prayers. **As this year draws to a close and we look toward a new one, your ongoing prayer and financial support of Godspeed is also vital for the work to continue and grow.**

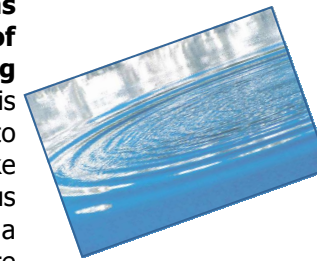
**May your Christmas be joyful, your New Year blessed. And, for this time, we proclaim that God is good...now...then...here...there...east...west...everywhere...all the time...always!**

**Godspeed,  
Barney, for Karen too**

## Transitions: A Ripple Effect (cont. from page 1)

**It is good to remember these lessons as we navigate the choppy waters of transitions within Godspeed. Coping with change is difficult, but good—it is part of moving from one stage of life to another; it is part of allowing God to make us more and more into who He intends us to be. Ripples on the waters of life are a wonder, they are fascinating, and they are reflections of change—they are all part of God's creation that speaks of His work in us now and in preparing us for life eternal.**

**Becky Magnuson**  
Godspeed Executive Director



*Post Script: These words follow a season of daily managing the "tyranny of the urgent" (Barney's words). As I sat down to write, I had not a clue where to begin—my creative thoughts were nil. I started with the definition of transition, the rest of the words just flowed from that. The following morning my devotional highlighted this verse. "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9). It occurred to me then, how God took my weak and tired mind and brought out the creativity that He has placed in me. To Him be the glory!*

### A Wave of the Future: A Trip Back to India

**My husband, Dave, and I attended the Pastors to Missions (PTM) conference** in Colorado in September, 2009. **One call that came to the conference attendees was the need for member care for national mission workers.** Before Dave and I were married in May 2008, **I served over three years in India as a consultant to community health and development projects** with Emmanuel Hospital Association and worked with teams of Indian colleagues. During that tenure in India, I became aware of ways that **organizations might care for the heart needs of their workers, from caring for those serving "cross-culturally" in another Indian state**

**far from their home, to helping workers better manage their time and resources to prevent "burn-out."** When I returned to the US in 2005, I sought to develop skills in counseling in order to better care for those with whom I minister by enrolling at Columbia International University where, in 2008, I completed a **Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Formation.** Also, in that in time I transitioned to a new sending agency, Pioneers, and made two short term trips with them—one to India and another to Thailand as part of my class and internship work toward my degree. After being inactive with Pioneers since just prior to our wedding, I have recently resigned my appointment with Pioneers and the

remaining ministry funds that were being held in my account there have been transferred to Godspeed to use for future international work.

**Dave and I are excited to now be making plans for an exploratory trip to India in early 2010.** We hope to **network with national mission leaders about member care needs and services** in their organizations and to explore how interested leaders could come together to strategize for the provision of member care for their staff. **We appreciate your prayers as we make contacts in India and seek how God will orchestrate these plans.** *Becky & Dave*

## NEWS BRIEFS

**The Shepherd's Rest Respite Center plans have continued to develop** in the last few months. In addition to obtaining land plats and recording those with the county, we have been working with a local contractor and **now have in place the plans and estimates for building a lodge and three small cabins** on the property. It has been exciting to see the pieces come together. **The next steps are contingent on the funding—we appreciate your ongoing prayers!**

**The Godspeed webpage has a whole new look!** We have done this in order to make the webpage more safely

accessible in difficult areas of the world by removing the word "missionary" and using the more generic term "cross-cultural worker." Both those seeking care and supporters of Godspeed can look there to find up-to-date information about the ministry, and even make contributions electronically. Check it out at [www.godspeedservices.org](http://www.godspeedservices.org)!

**Godspeed will be moving into a new expanded office space in 2010.** We will remain in the same location at Crossover Communications, which is adding a new wing to the building. Our new offices in this wing will require furnishings—please pray for God's provision in this area.

