



Photo Courtesy of AIM OFM

Getting Out Of The Boat

By Rod Dixon

I love reading all of scripture, but especially the Gospels and the Book of Acts. In them, Jesus and the Apostles teach amazing truths about God through the simple stories of peoples' lives. Down through the generations, individual believers – and the Church as a whole – have been instructed, empowered and impassioned to live lives that honor God through their obedience and service in response to those stories.

An example that is currently challenging me is found in Matthew 14 verse 22 to 33. It is the story of Jesus walking on water. In typical fashion, the disciples don't immediately recognize Him. Always ready to test Him, Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." (v28) I love that! They are at first terrified thinking Jesus was a ghost and then Peter wants to join Him on the water! I'm not sure that would have been my first reaction.

Interestingly, Nancy and I find ourselves in a situation similar to Peter

at this moment in our lives. Just as the storm lashed the Apostles' boat that night and fear filled their hearts on seeing Jesus walking toward them on the waves, we have an opportunity on our horizon that invokes uncertainty and, if I'm being honest, fear. Also like Peter, we are compelled to get out of the boat and go toward Him. In our case, it is in obedience to His calling.

Through a number of circumstances over the past several months, I have been invited by Africa Inland Mission (AIM) to visit their work in Nairobi, Kenya. They have started a field media ministry and I have an opportunity to go and teach some workshops on Photographic Composition, Documentary Story Telling and Digital Video Workflow. The bigger challenge before us is a longer term opportunity to produce a series of documentary videos about the work God is doing throughout AIM's field of ministry.

In some ways, this is an opportunity to return to work God called us to in the 1980s when we served on staff with SIM and shot documentary film and still photographs for that mission. We continued that work on freelance assignments with SIM and World Vision. Our vision today is to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of forming *Daylight Media Ministries* – a foundation dedicated to leading media professionals into short-term mission assignments to capture and tell the stories of God's work using new media technologies.

The Trip is planned for May 2009



Photo Courtesy of AIM OFM

First Things First

In our initial discussions, we planned to shoot a documentary on Missionary Aviation during this trip that was to be shown at the world-famous Oshkosh Air Show in late July. Unfortunately, the logistics have made it necessary to start with a fact-finding trip in order to do some research, gather information on other stories and lay the groundwork for other project teams to come in the future.

The Daylight Vision

The ideas behind *Daylight Media Ministries* have been simmering on my back burner for many years. The Church needs to know the stories of how God is currently working in local communities and around the world. Video, still photography and journalism can help capture these stories and new technologies can help distribute them for use by individuals, small groups and churches to get a more complete picture of who God is and who we are in Christ as we follow His unique calling and plan in our lives.

Throughout Scripture, God uses stories to reveal Himself to us. These same stories challenge us today to respond to the Great Commission (Mat. 28:16-20) and to discover the work He has prepared beforehand for us to walk in (Eph. 2:10). Whether that work is aviation, famine relief, medical care, HIV/AIDS treatment, evangelism, church planting, media production or orphan care, we must respond to the needs of God's children – in foreign mission fields or right here in our own communities.

The name we have chosen for this foundation (still being formed) came from reading a book by Erwin McManus called "*Chasing Daylight*". The idea is that time is running short and there are still lots of people who need to know the love, compassion, healing and redeeming power of our Lord Jesus Christ – while it is still daylight.

When Peter got out of the boat and walked toward Jesus on the water, he did fine till he took his eyes off his Lord. Please pray with us that we keep our eyes firmly fixed on Him as we walk into this opportunity.

Prayer Requests

That God would remove barriers.

The wind and waves made the going tough for Peter. Ask God to calm the storm for us.

That we would faithfully discern God's leading.

Peter first asked Jesus to "command him to come". Ask God to make the way clear.

That God would provide me with work in the interim.

Jesus didn't calm the storm till they were both safely back in the boat. For the unseasoned, this may seem like a bad time to get out of the boat to start a ministry, but we will trust and obey the Lord in these uncertain times.

That my gifts and talents would be fully dedicated to God's work.

Even the most gifted among us can accomplish more when depending on God.

If You Can Help

Pray of course, but we will also have travel and equipment expenses for this first trip. Any excess funds will go toward legal and professional fees associated with the formation of *Daylight Media Ministries*. In the meantime, make your tax deductible check payable to:

Faithful Friend*
Attn: Rod Dixon
17708 Glen Heights Drive
Dallas, TX 75287

*Until we form our own non-profit, we will be partnering with Faithful Friend so we can issue tax receipts for your donations.