



STEPHEN & LAURA HOLT

GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS THAT REMAIN THAT NOTHING BE LOST

JOHN 6:12

SUMMER 2007

PRAYER LETTER & MINISTRY UPDATE

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Dear Praying Family and Friends;

TRAVEL: "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." (Psalms 31:3) Since leaving DeLand, Florida on May 27th, we have traveled over 8000 miles and presented the Lord's work in 20 churches. We gratefully report that the Lord has abundantly blessed us with safety and good health in our travels. We know that this is the result of your faithful prayers - *Thank You!* We have been with churches in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine. Our six week tour of the maritime churches in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada has just concluded and we are now in up-state New York. After leaving New York, we will be in Iowa, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Ohio before returning to Florida in late November. Our truck and trailer are holding up well and we have had no mishaps on the road - *Praise the Lord!!* And please continue to pray.

IN THE CHURCHES: "...As the days of heaven upon the earth." (Deuteronomy 11:21) It is difficult to adequately express our appreciation to each church we have been in. What a privilege and blessing it has been for us to meet and serve with our family in Christ. Hearts are being stirred for the deep spiritual needs in Sierra Leone and we are grateful for the many churches and individuals who have pledged prayer and/or financial support. We are currently at approximately 30% of our needed financial support. The kindness and generosity of God's people have served to greatly encourage us. We have had all of our physical needs met in many unexpected ways. Space does not permit to mention each one individually but Laura and I wish to say that we are truly thankful for all who have helped us along our journey.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: We have had the privilege to co-labor with many of our brethren. Together with these churches we have taught Sunday school classes, assisted with visitation, ministered on the streets and in nursing homes, and just been a help where we could. We have thoroughly enjoyed each church we have been in and it is difficult to select a few highlights from our summer travels.

In July, we participated in public ministry with Bible Way Baptist Church of Worcester, MA. While the public proclamation of the Gospel was echoing off the courthouse walls, three other area churches, including Pastor Mike Rizzutti of Calvary Baptist in Danielson, CT, also joined our group for a joint evangelism effort; truly a blessing.

Established in 1853, Chegoggin Baptist Church in Nova Scotia was born out of the nineteenth century revival of neighboring Yarmouth. This lively congregation continues today in its founding principles as an independent, Bible believing, and dedicated church.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia we again took to the streets to evangelize during the annual "Busker" street festival. This was especially exciting as there were some members of New Testament Baptist Church who were new to the thrill of public ministry - fun was had by all. In an attempt to have our group removed, one of the local businesses called the police to complain of our presence but they were informed that we had the right to free speech and tract distribution - *score one for the good guys!*

A MINISTRY OF
HELPS IN
WEST AFRICA

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While at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Barrington, Nova Scotia I visited the museum in Birchtown dedicated to the black loyalists who settled there in 1788 after being evacuated from America by the British. These were former slaves who had obtained British freedom, many of whom fought for England during the Revolutionary war. In 1792, 1200 of these loyalists left the shores of Nova Scotia to be repatriated to their native Sierra Leone. For several generations, descendants from this original group were referred to as "the Nova Scotians." It was personally moving as I stood looking across the harbor where, 224 years ago, 15 ships sailed for Sierra Leone and where we hope to soon follow.

NEWS FROM SIERRA LEONE: The first presidential election since the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers in December 2005 took place on August 11. The results have come in and there will be a run-off election which is scheduled for September 8th. Due to violent clashes between opposing parties, a curfew has been imposed in the capitol city of Freetown as well as the eastern Kono district (the region where the diamond mines are located). Riot police have been deployed to these areas ready to enforce a state of emergency if calm is not restored. Please keep the safety of the churches in your prayers. Please pray that the new administration will be as welcoming to Christian missionary efforts as the out-going president and parliament have been. Finally, please pray that the country will remain peaceful and stable during this time of political transition.

UPDATING RECORDS: If you receive this letter via the U.S. Postal system but have access to e-mail, please send an e-mail message to holtfamily1611@gmail.com with "Holt E-letter" in the subject line. We appreciate your assistance in helping us to keep our expenses as low as possible.

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer; we truly appreciate each one of you.
By His Grace;

Stephen and Laura Holt



A "pit hut" that was home to the black loyalists during their stay in Nova Scotia. This was nothing more than a log roof over a small pit in the ground. Try to imagine a Nova Scotian winter in one of these.



View of the bay at Birchtown.



Preparing for street preaching in Worcester, MA with Pastor Tim Crocket (2nd from right) and members of Bible Way Baptist.



Chegoggin Baptist Church, Nova Scotia. 155 years as an independent, Bible preaching church.



Preaching on the streets of Halifax, Nova Scotia with Pastor Ken Parrett and his wife, Brenda (pictured right). Several other members of New Testament Baptist Church assisted in public evangelism during the annual "Busker" Festival. For some it was their first experience with public ministry.

