

REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS

March 2010



FROM Ray Bakke – Chancellor

Ray had what might well be considered a once-in-a-lifetime experience recently that highlights the quality of the BGU network formed over the years. A brief reflection about how it felt to receive the invitation appears below. If you want to know more about what happened and why, just click [here](#) for the March issue of BGU's e-newsletter GlobalScape.

(L to R – Ray Bakke w/ Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue & Bill O'Brien – Delegates suggested by Ray)

CHOSEN

I hated 2nd grade. Mid-year we moved from the city to the country. I was instantly the outsider – the last chosen on a team. Fast forward 65 years to the day I learned a US Government State Department official was calling to ask if I could be part of a 20-person team of very religiously diverse Americans who would go to Indonesia to be in dialogue with 20 Indonesians, from equally diverse religious backgrounds. Our task - to create a document that could serve as the basis for talks between President Obama and the President of Indonesia later this summer. The goal was to find things we could agree and collaborate on, rather than fight about, with this the world's largest Muslim, but also religiously moderate nation. How did I get chosen? I was reminded of the Genesis story where a prisoner and a lowly butler remembered a cell mate, Joseph, who could interpret dreams and sent word to Pharaoh. A former student of mine, now working on the lowly 2nd floor of the State Dept Bldg, remembered me from past and saw this as a place where I could serve. What an honor!

Prayer Request

Pray especially for Christians, both adults and children, in Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Pakistan, Malaysia, India and Indonesia where, as minorities, our sisters and brothers faithfully risk as witnesses to the reconciling love of Jesus, while knowing they are targets of wrath by some neighbors.

Ray



FROM Trudy Shuravloff – Master of Arts in Social & Civic Entrepreneurship (MASCE) Student (Bellingham, WA)

Trudy, Executive Director of The Whatcom Dream, is a new MASCE student and just the kind of person this degree was designed for. When you read her reflection, you will know why.

Before entering BGU I was considering closing my 10-year-old non-profit due to financial sustainability reasons. Fundraising was a constant pressure made tougher by the recent economic climate. I signed up for Toolkit 1 in the MASCE program and it turned out to be the exact information I needed! I am now working on a business plan to build a for-profit business that will bring in income to sustain my non-profit. Brilliant! I am feeling hopeful and have renewed enthusiasm about my work again!

Prayer Request

Please pray for financial success at The Whatcom Dream's silent auction fundraiser on April 23rd. Also, please pray for my husband John's health. Thank you!

Trudy

Bakke Graduate University strengthens leaders who steward resources with and for vulnerable people and places, by means of contextual, Christian-based education innovatively delivered throughout the urban world.