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Joyous greetings this new year of 2013 which is a testimony to God's enduring faithfulness as we continue to journey here below. *"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease"* (Genesis 8:22).

We want to thank you for your financial offering(s) to our ministry during the year of 2012. Your generosity assists us in offering our Daily Encouragement Net messages and supplemental materials to readers all over the world. Your gift is of great blessing to us and an answer to prayer as we seek to maintain and expand our online ministry!

We are able to allot several hours each day and many evenings to this ministry because of your financial support. As you may be aware, we served in a part-time pastoral role for three years before resigning in March of 2012. The time constraints related to pastoring, daily writing and website upkeep, in addition to our chaplain responsibilities and radio ministry were becoming more than we could handle. For the past several years we have not taken on a full-time pastoral role because Stephen's first calling is to this ministry. We could pursue more chaplaincy opportunities but that too would keep us from devoting our time to Daily Encouragement. There are some days, as you might guess, that it is a very tight squeeze to get our message out in a timely fashion and also fulfill our obligations as chaplains.

Once again we thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving which is also an affirming voice of support toward our ministry. We regularly lift you and your family up in prayer, as we thank God for providing our needs through your gifts. We know many of you personally and raise needs to God that we're aware of when we pray for you. We welcome you to include personal prayer requests with your offerings that we can lift up to the Father in prayer. Our prayer is that the Lord will richly bless you and that we are able to brighten your day through our messages at Daily Encouragement Net.

Be encouraged today,

Stephen & Brooksyne Weber

Our prayer for you: Loving Father, we lift up those who've come alongside us in this daily encouragement ministry. Their spiritual, physical, emotional and financial needs vary from day to day, but there is no problem in which You do not have the answer. May no difficulty discourage them to the point that they would give up and quit. Instead we pray that the light of Your Word will help them to live victoriously and remain constant in their Christian walk. As they share in the death of Christ may the life of Christ also be seen in their lives.

We pray that our written ministry through the Daily Encouragement Net will be one more tool that will affirm, encourage, challenge, and stimulate them to grow in their Christian faith. It is with thankful and humble hearts that we receive their financial gifts toward our ministry endeavor. Since we don't offer premiums nor do we manipulate readers to give, we thank You for these who are prompted by Your Spirit. It is our prayer that You return abundant blessing to them in the way that they have blessed others like ourselves. Amen.

“Encourage one another daily!” (Hebrews 3:13)

2012 statistics and information:

- 2012 offerings totaled \$26,146.33
- We had seventy different givers (individual, families, or churches)
- Most of our support comes from the USA but we have received offerings from Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and several other countries.
- Our readers come from some 200 countries all over the world. A special blessing is the regular feedback we receive and the sense that our ministry is reaching many in closed countries. For instance several weeks ago we received this note from a believer in an Asian country expressing a desire to have fellowship. *"We do not have western missionaries in our area I think it may be illegal. Our area has a strong Islamic atmosphere."*
- We believe a key to our work is an attempt to be very consistent in publication along with a personal touch reflected in the photos, personal stories and notes
- Our messages have both a discipling, teaching component to those who are Christians as well as an evangelistic to those who may be seeking or the recipient of a forward.
- Our ministry expenses for Daily Encouragement are very low; we need several late model computers and high speed internet access but we would have this anyway. We of course work out of an office in our home. We have no specific travel expenses related to Daily Encouragement Net but of course are blessed to travel in the course of our corporate chaplain ministry and that often becomes a prompting and source of illustrative material and photos for our messages.
- Specific expenses related exclusively to Daily Encouragement include a monthly charge for the listserve service (manages the email list). A supporter in Canada for many years has provided technical assistance and paid for our monthly podcast fee and web server.
- As most of you know we work on the messages together usually each weekday morning taking about 4 hours for each of us on average. This is all the work involved both writing, photo prep, music selection, editing, recording for the podcast, technical work and email responses. Often I begin the night before to get started writing, searching for songs, formatting, etc.
- Some may wonder why we don't have a budget or an offering goal. We commit our financial needs to the Lord and are grateful for the funds that do come in to support our ministry. We essentially have two sources of ministry support. Together we serve a number of companies as corporate chaplains and receive a fee for our service. We estimate that this form of ministry takes about half of our ministry time. Our goal is that it would provide about half of our family living expenses. Our hope has been that offerings to Daily Encouragement Net would also provide half of our family living expenses. Since we are self-employed our income through these fees and offerings must pay for all our business expenses, taxes including 100% of self-employment tax (most who are employed have half of this tax paid by their employer), health insurance, retirement savings (curtailed for several years).
- Early in 2012 we ceased serving small church we had served in an interim role for several years. During that time we had picked up three more companies in our corporate chaplaincy ministry and especially at our age were finding trying to do a good job with three different ministries was just too much of a load. At this time in our life we are open to more corporate chaplaincy work if a door would open but probably would not take another pastoral assignment unless it was for a very short-term.
- Our "thank you" procedure. For first time or one time gifts we try to acknowledge by email or phone call shortly after the offering is received. But sometimes we do not have an email address or phone number! The official receipt and thank you will come several weeks later from my chaplaincy endorsing agency to whom we are accountable to. We sure appreciate those who give regular offerings but we don't always send a thank you for each offering.

"Encourage one another daily!" (Hebrews 3:13)