

Will the Real Ministers Please Stand Up?

Have you ever waked up one day and realized that you have been believing a lie?

This lie has whispered to you, the Believer, for years... that you are less than someone else, and that "others" have the goods, and that you are a just a little below where "they" are, and the odds of you coming up to "their" level are slim to none. You may be a successful business person or someone who could speak to anyone in the room and not be intimidated or possibly a person that knows that whatever you get involved in will be better because you touched it.

So what is this lie? What is this thinking that has kept the Believer tied up? We have all been duped into believing that there is a certain group of people in the Body of Christ that are more spiritual. They have the ability to accomplish things in the realm of Christian spirituality for which the average person just does not have the same capacity. Who are those people? It is the people with the beautiful document in a discreet, yet tasteful frame displayed in an inconspicuous, yet eye-catching place in their office. Have you guessed? It is the ordained minister! Do I disdain them? No! Although my certificate is in a file, I am one!

Are you ordained? No? Are you *just* a lay person? Well, I have good news! You really are a MINISTER. It is the assignment of that person that calls himself a follower of Christ and spends the majority of his time in some place other than a pulpit to do "the work of the ministry" (Eph 4). It is the job of the pulpit minister to give you the tools to turn the world upside down! We are all beginning to realize that the words (or the concept) "clergy" and "lay" are nowhere in the Bible. Jesus trained businessmen and women to do the work of the ministry - including the twelve. Almost every miracle Jesus did was in the marketplace and he himself was a businessman the majority of his adult life! His parables had a workplace context. It was after Paul was discipled in workplace ministry by Aquila and Priscilla (tent making industry) that his ministry exploded.

You are an able minister of the New Testament! (2 Cor 3:6, 1 Peter 2:5&9, Rev 1:6, 5:10)

Wade and Linda
Thompson
Living Water
Ministries Int'l



Spring 2008



Israel

Who could have guessed that our job could be so much fun? Here we are in the middle of Israel as the designated tour pastors to a group of politicians (both state and national) and pulpit ministers from **India!** Each stop was an opportunity to share God's love with this influential group. *Who could ask for anything more?*



Wade is teaching where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. The Valley of Armageddon is within sight.



Linda teaching the Indian delegation in the same location that Jesus taught the Beatitudes



Wade is preaching in the Garden of Gethsemane - the Eastern Gate (or Golden Gate) is seen in the background.



Wade had the privilege of assisting Bishop Marc baptize seven people in the Jordan River. Six of them were family members of the politicians. These new believers will have a tremendous amount of influence on their generation.



In front of the Garden Tomb where Jesus rose from the dead.

China



What shall we eat? Duck tongue or donkey? Or possibly a barbecued pig's ear would be nice.

Each time we produce a newsletter you see pictures of crowds, both large and small. We thought that with this one you might enjoy a different flavor - a little more of the kinds of foods we eat, the kind of people we meet. We hope you enjoy these small glimpses into our very interesting adventures. Of course if you want to see more pictures you can log on to our website:

www.LivingWaterMinistries.org



We were introduced to a group of seven people that have dedicated their lives to prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week beaming out of this place. In a few months six of them will go back to their village, but one beautiful young lady plans to spend the rest of her life here praying and coordinating the ebb and flow of others who will join her. Their current focus is Islam.



Each of these leaders endanger their freedom and at times their lives each time they come for training or endeavor to teach what they have learned to others. Our prayer is that we always have something to share that is well worth the risk that these amazing people take.

India



Eating rice and dahl on a plate made of dried leaves from the trees in the yard. They were kind enough to find some forks for us. Wade loves it when they can't find an eating utensil and he has to eat with his fingers! Below we are welcomed with a tribal dance



No matter how many times we travel to India there are new and amazing things to experience. One thing that never fails to amaze me are the koolies that carry hundreds of pounds on their heads.



What a great team! Joel Hutton led worship and taught for an entire month of ministering from the tribal areas (really the ends of the earth!) to the huge cities with millions that sleep on the sidewalks each night. Mark Van Deman and Andy Schmidt came and assisted us in equipping believers during the last two weeks. It is a joy to minister alongside people who are not only powerful ministers but also just plain nice people! Not pictured is Peter Chacko, friend and partner.





Leading worship at the Jesus House Gathering Place.



Outdoor choir concert Spreading a canopy of worship in the center of the city as a witness. Throughout the week many people, most of whom were not Christians, stopped us and told us how much they enjoyed the concert. Almost every teacher we met heard the name of Jesus lifted up in song **and had fun.**



Outreach in the public schools Religion is a subject taught in the schools and although we were limited in the subjects in which we could begin a dialog, the students could ask any question they chose. And we could also sing any song we chose. We also spoke in several English classes. In both places we answered a great number of questions posed by the students.

Germany

Preaching from behind the pulpit is not the only way to lift up the name of Jesus. Although we were behind many pulpits, equipping believers in many different places, we also had the awesome experience of sharing Jesus in different venues.



Wade's Christian Punk Rock Concert Debut In a country that really needs some good news - but most do not know it, you must use some innovative means to preach the Gospel.

The Church -- A Covenant Community

Wade Thompson

A great deception has swept over the church in regard to her mission and commission. Some have come to think of the church as a social club of volunteers, doing good work for their fellow-man. We need to rethink and look thoroughly at the unique nature that God has given the church. In the past the church has been swallowed up in this concept of the church as a social servant. Organized and cutting edge visionaries like William Carey, Hudson Taylor, and Amy Carmichael broke away from the traditional concepts to form parachurch ministries that were fueled by passion to bring the gospel of freedom to lost and desperate people.

This powerful and redeeming role that the Father has given us transcends the norm of the institutional ideas of how the church should function in the world. Jesus set in motion the building of His church. That, in turn, produced passion to bring more people into the boundaries of God's grace. The church is His bride who is charged with preaching and demonstrating the Kingdom of God, which is already here, but has not yet fulfilled its purpose.

In his book, *God's Missionary People*, Charles Van Egan sites the following four stones of the church that hold us, plant us firmly and set us apart from any other force on the Earth!

- Koinonia – *Love one another...* without His presence there is no church! Where there are two or three of you gathered in my name there I am in your midst – Matthew 18:20
- Kyregma – *Jesus is Lord...* "And He has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign with Him on the Earth" Revelation 5:10
- Diakonia – *The least of these is my brethren...* "He who is chief among you are the servant of all" Matthew 20:27
- Martyria – *Real and authenticated testimony of His presence and power...* "You shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

We are a prophetic, priestly and kingly people, a community of ministers, managing covenant and leading with stewardship and authority, closely connected and vital to the church fulfilling her role in the earth.

There must now be a reconnection and understanding of these powerful roles and ministries that bring "redemptive lift" to every culture that embraces the gospel. It is time that God's covenant community understands that every believer is priest and clergy, destroying the "two-class" system of laity and clergy which places believers as second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God. The "Santa's helper syndrome" relegates believers to mundane tasks while elevating clergy as the only professionals capable of ministry. Pulpit ministers must equip the work-place ministers to fulfill their prophetic role and bring righteousness, peace and justice into human relationships and social structures. When the church is expressing her priesthood in society every believer brings redemptive life and reconciliation in his own sphere of influence, thus changing the spiritual climate in his community and region.

As managers of covenant our role is building nations, dispelling fear, bringing hope, administering governments, discipling nations to care for the people, and proclaiming the gospel of freedom. We are charged with bringing into reality His promise in Revelation 11:15, "The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord (Kyregma) and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever."

New beginnings! That seems to be the phrase that rings out for 2008 and we are no exception to that word for this new year. We sense there are new beginnings for us in this next twelve months. One of those new beginnings is the purchase of a palace built in the 16th century in the state of Thurigen, Germany, to be a worldwide ministry/training center. Though located in the center of Germany, it was formerly East Communist Germany.

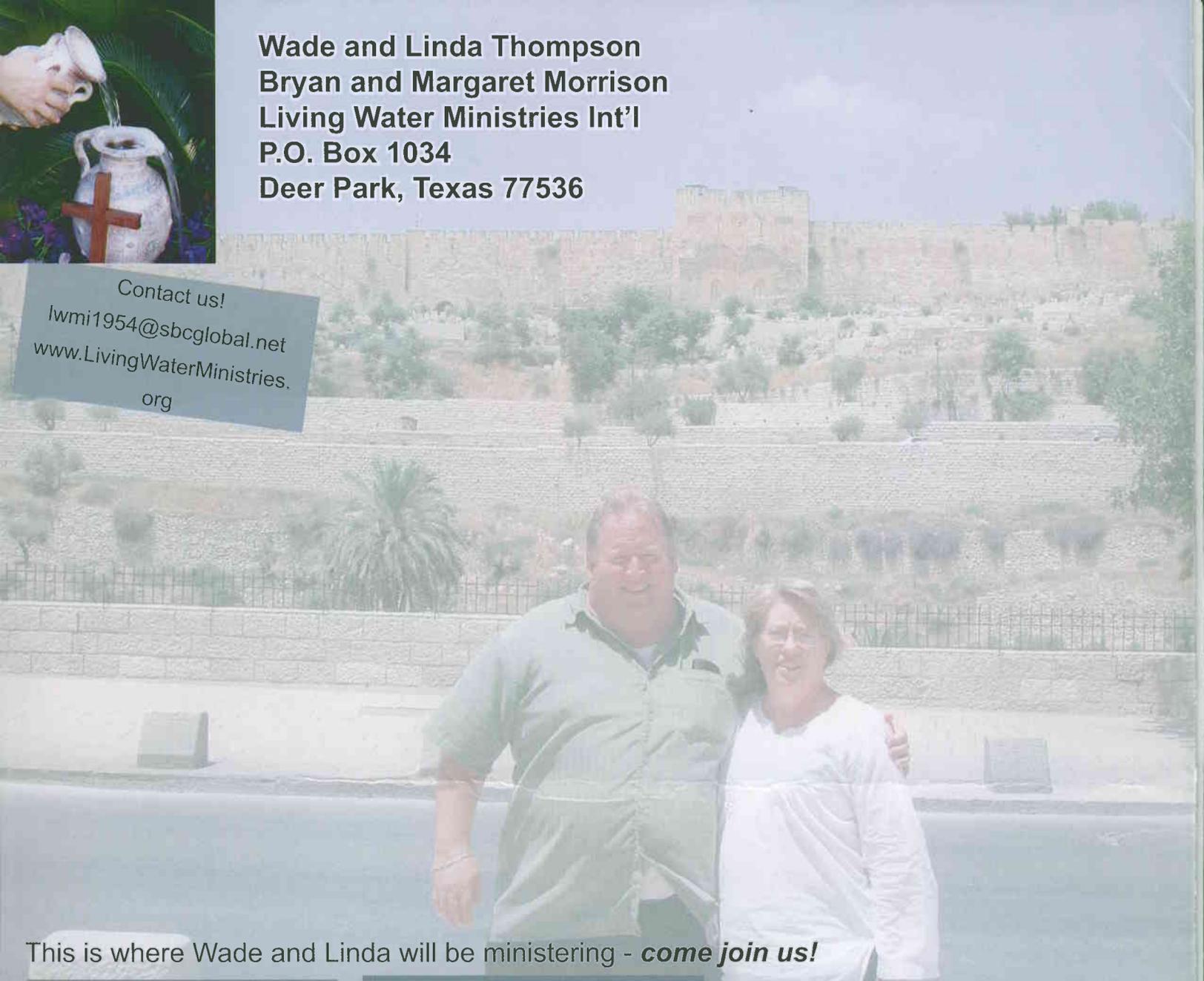
There is no question of the **scarcity of logic** in the path we believe God is asking us to walk in 2008. We wake up each morning, rub our eyes, and remind each other that we are ambassadors and what is an ambassador but an emissary sent to carry out the will of the kingdom from which he is sent. At the time of this writing the proposal is in the hands of the state finance minister.





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This is where Wade and Linda will be ministering - **come join us!**

2008

January 20
 Lighthouse Fellowship Chapel
 Pastor James & Glenda Engleman
 Harper, TX

January 27
 New Covenant Church
 Pastor Alfonso & Sheila Vargas
 Hondo, TX

February 2-5
 Leadership/Strategic Planning
 Pastor Tom and Beth Wright
 Indianapolis, IN

February 17
 Rehoboth Christian Center
 Pastor Darrell and Kathy Gooden
 Tallapoosa, GA

February 24
 Winds of Harvest Church
 Pastor Gary and Sherry Evans
 San Marcos, CA

February 25-March 2
 Regional Ministry
 Javier & MaryAnn Nunez
 San Marcos, CA

March 7-8
 LWMI/DreamBuilders International
 Spiritual Life & Leadership Regional
 Conference
 Wade & Linda Thompson Church
 of the Living Water
 Deer Park, TX

April 26 **Wade graduates!!!**
 Southwestern Christian University
 Graduation
 Bethany, OK

May-September
 DreamBuilders Leadership Center
 Conferences/Church-Planting and
 Evangelism
 North East Germany

November Leadership Development
 China

December Leadership Development
 North India

Milestones in 2007

- *Ministry teams impacted India, China, Germany, Israel and United States
- *1500+ pulpit and market-place leaders impacted through 15 regional leadership conferences
- *Helped establish two church plants (Germany and USA)
- *New believers birthed on four continents including six children of political leaders from India
- *Began the process of the purchase of property for ministry center in Germany