

Heart for Helena

September 19, 2006

Dear Friends,

Our biggest news since our last newsletter is that Jesse (11) and Isaac (10) met with some elders from Peace to profess their faith in Christ and be received as communicant members. They took their first communion 9/3/06! We thank God for His faithfulness. We thank many of you for encouraging our sons in the faith. Below are a couple of pictures from last summer in Montana.



Jesse, the swinger!



Isaac, on board a former “man-killer” mustang, Storm

We have other big news. We've been astonished how God has provided a buyer who loves our home. She had wanted to buy this house before we did – 13 years ago. Rejoice with us; we have a signed contract! We are so grateful to have major house projects completed and a contract. **Please pray for the timing of the appraisal and closing (mid-October?) – and that they go well.**



One friend from Helena wrote and told me not to worry about finding a home in Helena. Well, I have worried. Then I remembered, home by home, place by place, how God has taken care of us. Why should I worry? I've thought about how important it is for me to provide for my family and to provide a place for them. But, where does that need come from? My guess is that some of it is my foolish old nature which will not trust God. And some of the desire to provide a place comes from God. That's what he loves to do for us (*I go to prepare a place for you*). So, can I trust Him? You tell me!

I need your **prayers for the times I speak to the men from Skyview and Canon Pines Presbyterian Churches.** I fly to Denver this Thursday, 9/21. The retreat is Friday and Saturday. I want to speak to them about "The Heart." I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will help me speak to them heart to heart. Can we often inarticulate men get past the posturing and shallowness we allow so that the grace of Jesus becomes more of a reality in our lives? Please pray for that time I am with these brothers. As I go, I am very grateful for what God has done among the men at Peace – especially in their prayer groups and retreats.

Sunday, 9/24, I will be preaching at Skyview PCA. **Pray for preachers** around the world that day as they open the Scriptures and the gospel to their congregations. We worship a great God who, according to Luke 15:2, "receives sinners." Listen to Spurgeon comment:

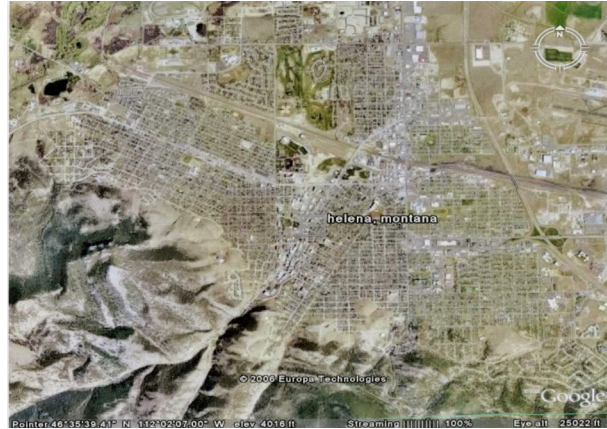
"This Man, who towers above all other men, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners--*this* Man receives sinners. It needs an angel's tongue to describe such a mighty stoop of love. That He, the offended God, should take upon Himself the form of a servant, and bear the sin of many, and should then be willing to receive the vilest of the vile, this is marvelous.

"This Man receives sinners;" not, however, that they may remain sinners, but He receives them that He may pardon their sins, justify their persons, cleanse their hearts by His purifying word, preserve their souls by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, and enable them to serve Him, to show forth His praise, and to have communion with Him. None are so precious in Jesus' sight as the sinners for whom He died. To them He opens the golden gates of His royal heart. This fact is still most sure, He is still receiving sinners: would to God sinners would receive Him (Spurgeon Daily Meditations - <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1700529/posts>).

And please pray for travels and relationship building. Sunday night - Tuesday, I will be visiting family and contacts in Colorado Springs. Pray that God will lead me to some who will invest in the Helena Project. Then Wednesday, Via flies into Denver. We drive 6 hours north to Lander for presbytery. **Pray that we in Rocky Mountain Presbytery may do our business well – with unity of spirit – remembering God's call upon us to advance the gospel of Jesus.**

After presbytery, Via and I plan to drive through Yellowstone to Helena (8.5 hours). **Please pray for our children** while we are away.

Saturday, we will meet with our realtor, Lynda Lynde. **Pray for us as we “house hunt”** in this city we have grown to love. Pray that God will point us to a home well suited for our family – and for hospitality. After living outside of town last summer, we know we want to live in town. We want to meet people and be part of the community. So, our “home-to-be” is somewhere on this Google Earth picture of Helena. Maybe you can see it (where is Waldo?! Will God help us conclude house matters by Thursday noon (Oct. 5)? We are hoping that the significant expense of a second trip will not be necessary. Please pray.



Thursday night we'll be in Billings with our good friends, the Barries (Rocky Mountain Community Church), and then travel to Denver the next day – flying back to NC on Saturday.

You may be wondering how fund raising is coming along. The financial supporters of the Helena Project presently number: 102 individuals or families, 6 churches, 1 business and 1 Montana Foundation. As of 9/11, according to Mission to North America, our donors have pledged or given \$465,962. Another nine donors have told us they will soon be in touch with MNA. Their gifts and pledges will bring the total to \$497,302. Adding to that the anticipated \$309,000 (from people in Helena) = \$806,302 = **89.6% of our whole \$900,000, 5.5 year budget. Thank God. Please pray that we will be 100% funded. We are excited to be so close to our goal. Will you help us get there?**

Clearly, we are still raising funds. In the speed of your life, would you pause and ask God about your financial partnership with us in the Helena Project? The remaining \$95,000 could be given by many people. This goal could be met over the next 5.5 years:

- If 15 people give \$100/month; or
- If 29 people give \$50/month; or
- If 58 people give \$25/month (we are praying there are *many* of these).

If you want to participate in this way, please fill out the attached pledge card mail or fax it to: Mission to North America: Attention Michael Hutcheson: FAX: (678) 825-1224).

You also may be wondering about the anticipated \$309,000 from Helena. I have. While we were on our way to Colorado (7/24), we stopped in **Easley, SC**, for a meeting with @ 50 people at **Covenant, PCA**, the church I helped plant in 1981. What a great time we had. As I was cleaning out my files at Peace, I found a budget review of the early Covenant years. Covenant was composed mostly of rural and middle class families. Here is how God prospered that young church:

1982	\$50,000	1984	\$86,000	1986	\$144,000.
1983	\$60,000	1985	\$124,000		

I realized that if God does something similar in Helena, the \$309,000 projected for the first five years in Helena will be reached. That was a great encouragement.

In the midst of fund raising, it is good to remember what God did at Covenant. As we look back, it is clear that our primary goal was not financial. But, as a result of Jesus honoring His promise to build His church – as a result of us primarily focusing on “doing the next thing” to love God because of the gospel and our neighbor with the gospel, God provided. Glory.

Pray that the gospel will impact our world – our nation – especially the West. Pray for Montana – especially, Helena. As you pray, believe that God will use sinners like us saved by the grace of Jesus - to press His kingdom forward where we live. Proverbs 11:11 *By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted.* It is grand to know the Upright One loves and blesses us and cities like Helena too.

Love,

Steve and Via/Ginny



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Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
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Please visit our web site: www.HeartforHelena.org

Pledge card attached below

Steve and Virginia Bostrom

After investing nearly 30 years serving PCA churches in South Carolina and North Carolina, Steve Bostrom has been called by Rocky Mountain Presbytery to plant a church in Helena, Montana. A 2001 trip West rekindled Steve and Virginia's love for that place and people. Other visits, schooling, study, and a sabbatical in Helena continued to show the significant need for healthy churches in the West – particularly, Montana. MNA agrees. Will you be their partner – seeking to love the Gospel and Helena through the planting of healthy churches?

Steve, born and raised in Colorado, returned home after Westmont College. Virginia came to teach after Covenant College. They were married at Village 7. Steve has served three churches – as associate pastor, church planter/pastor and the past 18 years as senior pastor at Peace PCA in Cary, North Carolina.

Steve and Virginia are parents of eight. The four youngest: Micah, Noah, Jesse and Isaac will accompany them to Helena. Married sons, Jared (Rebekah's husband; Jackson's father), Jordan (7/1/06 wedding to Claire) their daughter, Rachel (married to Nathan Pierce) and son, Zach, plan to continue their Southern sojourn.

Statement of intent to pledge support to the Helena Project

MINISTRY OF CHURCH PLANTER, STEVE BOSTROM, HELENA, MONTANA

Yes, I (we) would like to express my (our) intent to pledge support the Helena Project and to MNA by:

PRAYER: *I (we) would like to pray for the development of this ministry and for the hearts of people to be touched by the Gospel.*

FINANCIAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS:

One time gift of \$ _____.

Ongoing pledge of \$ _____ per _____ for _____ years

MONTH, QUARTER OR YEAR 1, 2, 3, 4 OR 5.5

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

Mission to North America, 1700 N. Brown Rd., Suite 101, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

I would like information on bank electronic funds transfer for my gifts.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE CHURCH PLANTER PRAYER LETTERS. *(Please DO NOT check if you are currently receiving the prayer letter.)*

TITLE (MR., MRS., MS., ETC.) NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE WITH AREA CODE

EMAIL

This contribution will be made with the understanding that Mission to North America has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds, to assure their use for the intended exempt purposes. This statement may be revised or cancelled at any time should circumstances necessitate.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
1700 N BROWN RD STE 101
LAWRENCEVILLE GA 30043-8143

