



On The Rock In Athens



Jan/Feb, 2010

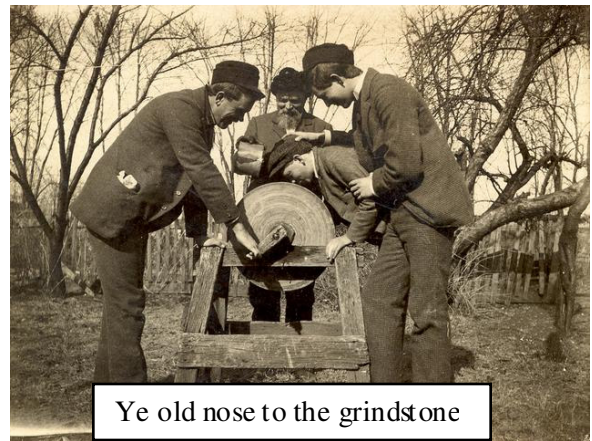
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In the Work of the Lord . . .

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones." – Proverbs 3:5-7

A healing from the grindstone . . .

We get so wrapped up on the daily workings of our lives we often forget what's most important sometimes don't we? It blows me away that as I look at the calendar it's February already. And I haven't sat down to write ya all a note about what's been going on in our lives since early December. Shame on me. I want to scream out with every fiber of my body that, "I'VE JUST BEEN SOOO BUSY." But, that's just an excuse isn't it? We sure like to use that one a lot don't we?



Ye old nose to the grindstone

The fact of the matter is I'd just allowed myself to get too distracted by all the daily busyness we all succumb to. Gotta get those papers graded and posted, gotta get those lessons ready for classes, gotta get all those student issues and paperwork sorted, answered, mailed, filed and put in place. And on and on it goes. Yesterday I worked up such a lather of busyness that Diana finally walked into my office and said, "Let's drive down the coast and get some coffee." I wanted to say to her that I was too busy, but she had that look in her eyes. Men, you know that look.

So we went. She took me to a beautiful seaside coffee shop not far from our house that I'd never been to. I think that was just about the best thing we could have done. I hadn't realized how out of focus I'd become about the most important things in life.

We lose focus don't we? We get so wise in our work and think we are more important than we really are, that we lose focus on the ONE who makes our path straight. We often forget to keep our focus and trust in the Lord always with all our heart. Sometimes we just got to take a step back from the grindstone and take a time of refreshment and realign our body and soul with the Lord.

So with that, I'm looking to get back in focus. Not that I haven't been doing my job. That's been going great. But I'm looking to get back in focus with what's really important. That's one of the reasons I now sit down and write this to you. You all are part of what's very important in my life. Putting God first and walking hand in hand together, we're in this journey together. Let's look to each other for HIS refreshing. Thank you for being along with us on this journey. Thank you for allowing us to walk along with you on your journey. It is a healing for our bodies and refreshment for our bones.

Goings on in the school . . .

The school has been going gangbusters. Monday we finished up our study of **Bible History Part two**, which actually began back in the last term in December. That study went all the way from Joshua through Malachi. Wow, I didn't think the students would be able to hold on as well as they did. They did very well with all those names and dates of all those Judges and Kings. We bowled them over with a deep study of **Isaiah**, and they came away from the class with a much deeper appreciation of this great prophet. **Beni Leka**, as always did a great job with journeying with them through **the book of Acts**. The students always appreciate his excellent way of presenting the material in a way they can understand easily. Other classes I got to enjoy teaching were **Personal Evangelism** and **The letters of Peter**. We were also blessed in that a good friend of mine from Grand Island, Nebraska, **Gary Bennett**, got to visit for a few weeks. We enjoyed having him sit in with us in the classroom and we even got to enjoy a little of his teaching and preaching.

Ray Hull gets to join us again this month as our next visiting instructor. Ray will be teaching **Fundamental Theology, Philippians**, and **Hebrews**. Beni gets to teach **Christian Evidences part two**, and I will get to teach **Church Planting/Church Growth** and the **Letter of James**. It will be another busy month. I'll have to remember to keep my focus.

Observations from Diana . . .



Yesterday Ron and I left the house right after it rained. The air seemed so cool and fresh, I just had to stop for a minute and breathe deeply. It made me think of all the times that God sent something or someone into my life just at the right time to help me feel cleansed and refreshed. Most of the time it's a passage from His Word, other times it's just a complete feeling of peace when there is chaos around me. Other times it is just a phone call or letter from someone who said they were thinking of me and praying for me.

Yesterday Ron and I went to a coffee house by the sea and just sat there together. We watched the waves and listened to it beating against the sand. A group of seagulls came and we watched as they dived for the school of fish that swam just beneath the surface. It was so refreshing to our souls to see and hear God's creation and marvel that He did it all for us, for our enjoyment. What a loving, kind Father we have. I pray that your eyes will be opened to Him when God sends refreshment for your soul. Love, Diana.

On a personal Note . . .

That's one more year behind us. There's one more year before us. The time goes by so very fast, doesn't it? We pause and think as we've now completed four years here in Athens and begin our fifth year. We know that this will be an interesting year. There will be decisions to be made and more challenges to face in the future. You've all been hearing about the difficult economic situation here in Greece. That reflects very much on the welfare of all, particularly the students. Who knows what the future brings. It's at times like this it's good to know that we have such a wonderful God to look to and lean on. We may wonder and worry about what the future of this world brings. We most certainly need to continue to keep the school, the students and all involved with the school in our daily prayers. God's got this all planned out to HIS glory and that is very good. Hang on with us and let's look forward this year to where He leads us next. We think it's going to be very exciting.

Prayer needs:

- *Pray for the deep economic struggle that Greece finds itself in at this time. It is serious and can mean very difficult times ahead for the students.*
- *Pray that the students keep focused on what's important in their schooling, daily lives and the challenges of living from day to day.*
- *Pray for Diana and me that God will continue to light HIS way before us as we seek HIS direction and focus for our steps ahead.*

With much love . . .

Ron and Diana

Drop us a line

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