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Russ & Jo's Digest



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Serving Unsung Heroes

People with professional skills in the fields of accounting, technology and human resource management are oftentimes the hidden heroes in ministry. If they do their jobs well, nobody notices. Paychecks are distributed, computer networks keep running and health care benefits get paid. In fact, to keep these letters interesting, I often focus on the use of technology for sharing the Gospel rather than bore you with the complexities of providing support services that keep a global ministry running.

I got an opportunity to serve these unsung heroes last month. Campus Crusade's technology leaders met in Pretoria, South Africa to sharpen their leadership skills and to work on strategies for sharing tools and information with each other. Any visit to South Africa is a treat for me since we used to live there, but I was especially honored on this trip by being asked to drive the bus between our guest house, the meeting venue and wherever we ate in the evenings.

On my first trip with the bus fully loaded with people I was



Russ driving on the "wrong" side of the road again and loving it!

careful not to jostle my cargo too much. However, I was gently reminded by my South African host that the bus had a lot more horsepower and I had not used nearly enough of it

on my first trip. I was happy to comply and had a great week careening around the East Pretoria suburbs. It felt great to be back home again!

We Prayed And . . .

God answered; but not as we expected! In the past I have mentioned the cost some of our staff members pay to take the good news of God's love to their own people.

In one country a group of our staff members have been imprisoned for close to a year. We have been praying for their release, but God has not answered that prayer. Just today I received a report on their situation.

Both jail officials and inmates have observed that this group of prisoners is different than other prisoners. They have

expressed surprise that these men and women don't smoke, drink, or curse. Because of exemplary behavior over time, prison officials have entrusted them with leadership responsibilities and overseeing other inmates in their daily chores. They have been given special privileges. They are leading a number of Bible studies inside the prison which are being attended by new Christians. One of those attending is a jail official who has developed a desire to minister to others and is considering attending seminary.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
- Hebrews 13:3

Doesn't this account remind you of Joseph's experience having been unjustly imprisoned in Egypt? (Genesis 39:20)

God is greater than any human system and He uses both the righteous and the unrighteous to implement His plans.

Thank you for joining our work by praying with us.

In Him, Russ & Jo Anne