



# NEWS FROM THE WHITMORES

World Reach • P.O. Box 26155 • Birmingham, AL 35260  
 voice: (205) 979-2400 • e-mail: info@world-reach.org • web: world-reach.org

June 2008

This spring I have been helping a number of teams and individuals prepare for going on cross-cultural mission trips. As I have gotten to meet these “short-termers”, it’s been interesting to learn their motives for going. Some go because they feel “called”. Some go because they are trying to determine God’s will for their lives and believe that a mission trip will help give clarity and direction. Still others just want to help and experience something new. As I thought about their motives, I found myself scrutinizing my own motives and asking myself why am I involved in missions.

For me, part of the reason can be found in recognizing one of the spiritual **realities** of living in a world under the curse of sin. I was reminded of this reality several weeks ago as I was preparing to preach at a church that is sending a team to Honduras this summer. God gave a preview of this **reality** in a conversation He had with Satan following the fall. The event is recorded in Genesis 3:8-19. After Adam and Eve each played the blame game— “The woman you gave me”... “The Serpent beguiled me...”, God made an interesting pronouncement to the

Serpent— *“I will put enmity between... your seed and her seed... he will bruise your head.”* The word enmity literally means the quality of being an enemy; hostile or unfriendly disposition. Reading between the lines, God was in effect saying to the great deceiver, Satan, there’s going to be hostility between us. You are in for the battle of your life. You are going to loose.

As believers, we cannot escape the **reality** of this battle. God, in His sovereign wisdom, has chosen to **commission** those He has redeemed to be soldiers in His army. If you are a soldier of the King, have you ever looked at your marching orders? They are quite compelling and far reaching: *Go and make disciples; love one another; preach the Word; be my witnesses; you are ambassadors for Christ; you are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world; do the work of an evangelist; feed my sheep; pray without ceasing; rejoice always; forgive one another; to name a few.*

So— soldier, how is your mission going? Are you on the front lines and in the battle or far from the action? Remember, to put it quite simply, missions begins once you get past the end

of your nose. You might be asking, “What can I do?” God’s army is in need of people to **Pray**. . . To **Give**. . . and to **Go**. Whether it’s across the street or around the world, be a good soldier. Oh that each of us will be able to echo the words of the Apostle Paul when our days are complete— *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith!”* II Timothy 4:7

*“There’s going to be hostility between us.”*

## Praise

- For a new ministry developing in Argentina.
- For our new team member in our Birmingham office, Sharon Nichols.

## Prayer

- For quick completion of our new World Reach website.
- For interns Keesa, Jon, Will and Hayley. They are serving in Peru. Pray that each of them will clearly understand God’s direction for their future service.