

# POWER *for* LIVING



A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

January - March, 2011

Dear friends,

**A Wake-Up Call!** I need it. You need it. The world and the church needs it! This quarter's newsletter will take you into the life and family of a precious friend and how he's responding to his wake-up call. Hopefully, this will help us start this year out with what really matters most!

You will notice some **changes in our schedule** this year. We have reduced the number of family camp meetings in order to accommodate **more overseas calls**. Sorry to all you faithful attendees. We're just trying to use our influence to reach as many people and unreached fields as possible. This will be varying every year according to the need and call. Even our **annual Open House has been canceled for this year** to enable us to reach out to God's people in Sweden. Please continue to pray for us as we will be in four different foreign countries this year as well as multiple locations in the United States.



For you modern techies, *Come Walk With Me* and *Escape to God* are now available as **e-books**. You can find the links to them by visiting our online store at [www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](http://www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org) and scrolling to the title of the book you are interested in.

**Thank you** for remembering our ministry and its outreach into the hearts and homes of people all around the world!

In His service,

*Jim & Sally*



## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

**January 7 - 8**

Edmond SDA Church  
Edmond, Oklahoma  
Call (405) 478-4401

**February 4 - 5**

Gentry SDA Church  
Gentry, Arkansas  
Call (479) 549-2155 or (479) 549-2166

**March 4 - 20**

Brazil  
Call 55-19-3858-1088

**March 29 - 31, April 1 - 3**

Uruguay

**April 29, 30, & May 1**

Buford Family SDA Church  
Buford, Georgia  
Call (678) 362-8686



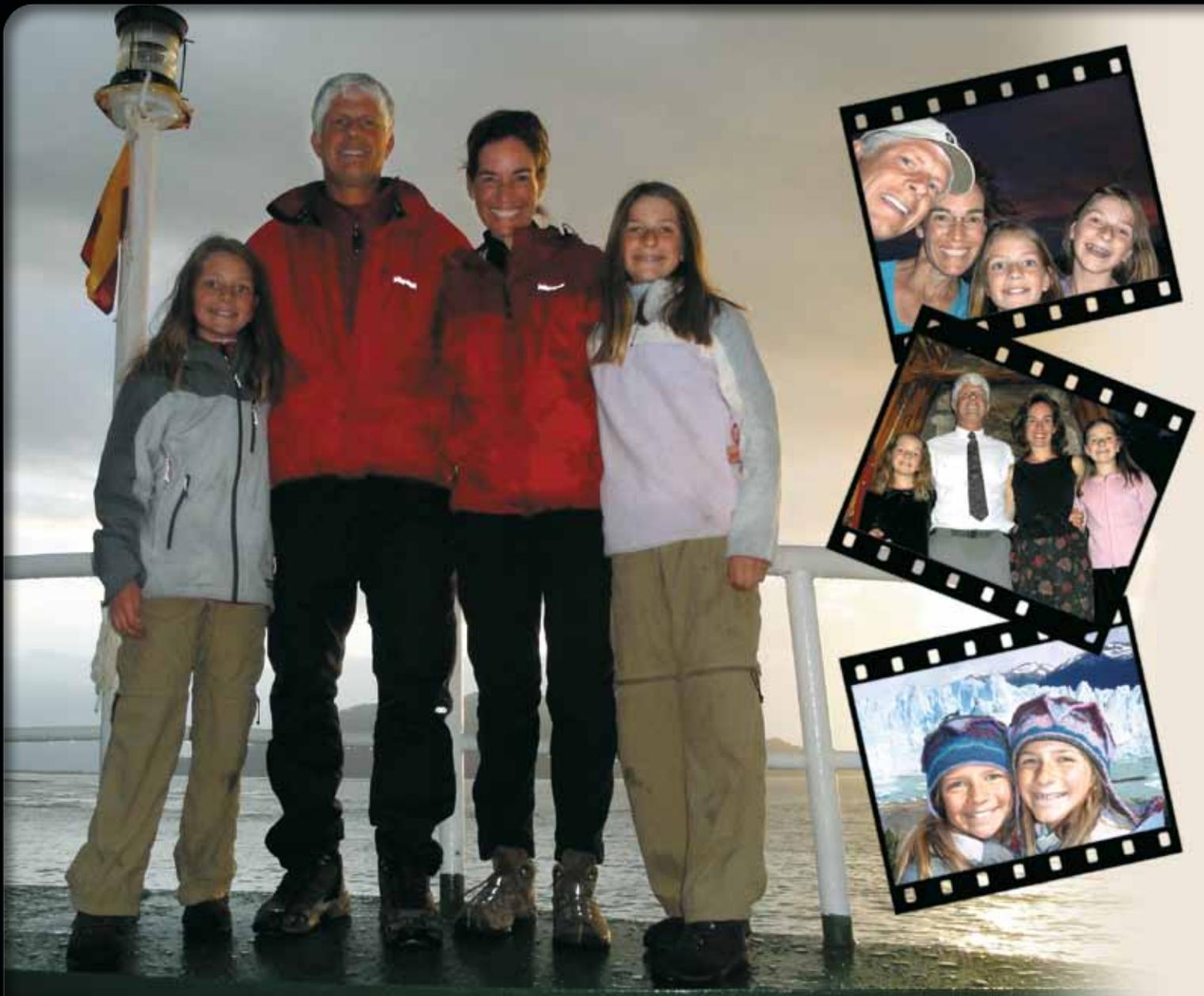
"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know is not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us. For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at: Empowered Living Ministries: 3945 North Fork Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Email: [Office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:Office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

Office: (406) 387-4333 Fax: (406)387-4336 Order Toll Free: (877) 755-8300

*It's About Walking With God!*



## *A Wake-Up Call*

*Ponder the path of your feet,  
and let all your ways be established.  
Proverbs 4:26*

It was May 16, 2010. A dear friend and I were headed for some much-needed *escape to God time* in the wilderness when my cell phone rang. I flipped it open and saw that Michael, another very good friend of mine, was calling. His voice was unusually sober.

“Jim, I just found out that I have leukemia.”

“What?!” I blurted out in shock. “Michael, no way! Am I hearing you correctly?”

“Yes, Jim. You are.”

“Michael, you’re only 48 years old and one of the most physically active friends I’ve ever known. Please, fill me in on the details.”

He did and I was as shocked and dismayed as he was. Overnight, his whole world had changed and he now found himself unwillingly in a life and death battle with an insidious internal enemy. As we ended our conversation, I promised Michael I’d call him as soon as I got out of the wilderness.

I thought and prayed a lot about Michael, his family, and his future during the next ten days. Michael and I had a lot in common: our love for God and walking with Him daily; ministry and outreach to others; a life of adventure; our families and marriages; and living life to its fullest. We were close in so many ways—except for one. How we prioritize our lives.

Priorities are a very personal thing and we don’t all approach them the same. My wife and family are always at the top of my list. Michael’s wife and family are very important to him, but work, ministry, and adventure

typically get first dibs on his time. We had discussed this many times through the years that we have known each other—maybe even to the point of a little agitation.

The years rolled by and then, in 2009, Michael decided it was time to take his lovely wife, Susan, and his two sweet daughters, Adrianna and Madeline, on a four-month *escape to God adventure*. They packed their bags and headed for the spectacular wilderness of Patagonia. It would be just the four of them and God. They would invest themselves and their time to draw their family very close and to connect all of them more deeply with their God. It was an outing they would never forget.

Michael came home excited about his time with God and his girls. He told me about a deep impression that he was to “praise God until his dying breath”. He didn’t understand exactly what this meant.

Two weeks after returning home from their *escape to God time*, Michael started experiencing chest discomfort. Following an intense diagnostic process, he was hospitalized for the next four months. My heart and prayers went out to Michael and his family through this intense time. All were praying that the treatment would completely wipe out the cancer cells.

Disappointingly, however, at the very end of his treatment, Michael received startling news that there were still traces of cancer in his system and it appeared that the possibility of recovery was very, very poor. They still needed the final results of one more test, though, and had to wait two weeks to get them. As you can imagine, those two weeks were agonizing for Michael and Susan.

As Michael and I chatted, I queried, “Michael, do you mind if I could ask you a real heart question?”

“Of course not, Jim. Go ahead.”

“For the past two weeks, since you received this devastating lab report, what has been going through your mind day and night? Would you feel free to share it with me?”

Michael did and it so touched my heart that I asked

him if he would write it down and send it to me. With his permission, I share it with you. (See “Michael’s Story”.)

Most of us live as if our days will never end. The things that matter most get pushed to the back burner while we chase the peripherals. Perhaps Michael’s illness is a blessing in disguise. Coming face to face with your own finiteness can bring life’s real priorities into focus like nothing else.

If you were in Michael’s shoes, what vision would haunt you? Do you need more quiet time in order to hear God’s still small voice to your heart, mind, and conscience? Do you need to take some *Escape to God time* to get in touch with God’s priorities for your life? He knows the path ahead of you even if you don’t.

Michael has returned to his home in Lincoln, Nebraska and is taking time—that precious time—for his three girls. He knows that time could be short and every day is precious to him and his family.

Things are different now when he walks and bike rides with his three girls. The way he looks into their eyes, the way he listens and interacts—it’s all more precious and appreciated. When interrupted, he’s more patient and takes the time that he wished he had taken before.

Now Michael lives in the reality of what really matters most: relationships. He is discovering life in the face of death. He is “praising God until his dying breath.”

Michael’s experience can be a wake up call for all of us. Will we live today and tomorrow and each day of this New Year as if our days on this earth were few? Will we prioritize our time in the light of eternity?

Lord, teach us to ponder the path of our feet and let all our ways be established. ♥

### *Michael's Story*

*As a vegetarian who exercised 1 - 3 hours a day, the last thing I envisioned was coming down with leukemia. I was in the midst of directing a technical rescue course when I became sick and had to be airlifted to Denver. A few days later, as I lay on the hospital bed undergoing induction chemotherapy, I knew that I had a high probability of dying within the next few days or months.*

*I was not afraid of death, for I have a good walk with my Lord. Yet, in another way, I was terrified to die. I have two daughters, aged 10 and 12, and I kept thinking of waking up on resurrection day and having a beautiful woman I didn't recognize running towards me and throwing her arms around me and saying, "Daddy! Daddy!"*

*This vision haunted me throughout the 64 days I spent in the hospital. I had missed their teenage years. I wasn't there to protect them on their first date, to teach them to drive, etc. I regretted all the time spent at work and with the county and hospital trying to save lives, yet not spending the time with my family when my daughters were younger. All those late night meetings, SWAT and fire call-outs, being chief of staff, director of an ER, all to benefit society. Was it really worth it when it came to family? No. All that mattered now to me was to spend time with my wife and children. If God spares my life, I plan to do so.*

*Postscript:* Michael is doing much better now and has a good chance of surviving this illness. However, he may still need to undergo bone marrow transplantation. Please keep him and his family in prayer.



3945 NORTH FORK ROAD  
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit ORG  
US POSTAGE

**PAID**  
PERMIT 27  
KALISPELL, MT



*It's About Walking With God!*

**AFRICA 2010**

Africa, for us, is **about reaching people**—precious human beings hungering for answers to resolve their daily dilemmas. The dear mothers with their children exclaimed, “Your coming to Africa has really given us hope!” Hope! So, so many people need hope!



Millions of souls live in the slums. The government offers no hope. Their circumstances offer no hope. But the gospel, rightly understood and entered into delivers hope for every one regardless of race, circumstances or wrong choices.

Whites, coloreds, and blacks all crowded in to hear, understand and enter into how to walk with God in this present life. God is no respecter of persons and stands by the side of every individual. It is our privilege to introduce them to the God who lives for them.



Then there are the people who give of their time, talent, and resources to make it happen. Thank you, Samuel and Hein, for laboring with us so that others might experience what is transforming your own lives. ♥