

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1999

August 1999. New Orleans. This is Newsletter #3 from the Little Brown Studio. It will be the last newsletter of the year. The decade. The century. The millennium. Soon we will find ourselves in the year of slash double zero. So far, writing that slash followed by those two round circles has been novel and fun and easy to remember. However, I'm still having to go back every time to add an "n" to millennium, usually after I have once again given up and consulted a dictionary. At least I can wait 1000 more years until I have to know how to spell that word again. Hope this letter finds you well and enjoying these dog days of summer. May all your red watermelons be sweet and juicy and plentiful and all your ice cream cones be tall and tasty and melt slowly. Coastally speaking, may all our hurricanes continue to fizzle out.

Highlights of 1998-99:

I learned to play the flute! What a joy that has been to my soul. Taught the LightMaker LightKeeper Bible study to the ladies at NOBTS. Set up a webpage: www.littlebrownlight.com. Survived four hurricanes. Spent Christmas 98 in West Africa on a missionary journey... Typed the manuscript for The Letter Book, the biography of Big Wera, my grandmother. Sold out of the Little Brown Tape and had to place an order for more cassettes. I was the most amazed of all! Spent some time in New England. Cut my right index finger and had five (5) stitches. Graduated from CLASS (Christian Leaders, Authors, Speakers Seminar).

Where We've Been:

Blue Mountain and Snow Lake with family for Labor Day 98 + New England, Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod October 98 + West Africa Christmas 98 + Ladies' Retreats in Morgan City, LA... Shreveport, LA... Laporte, TX... North McComb, MS...

Folsom, LA... Athens, TN... Gulf Shores Assembly, MS with Raymond BC + Foreign Missions meetings in Angie, LA... FBC New Orleans... Sandy Hook, MS + Senior Adult banquet at Parkway BC in Natchez, MS + Widows in Ministry Banquet in Baton Rouge, LA + Ferncrest nursing home and Chateau Retirement Village + Passover Services at NOBTS + Summer worship leader for NOBTS chapel services + Concerts in Summit, MS and Christian Women's Club in New Orleans + Sang for Almetta Wilson Day at NOBTS +

Where We're Headed:

Pearlington, MS + Metairie, LA + Live at Cafe New Orleans + Crenshaw, MS + Thomasville, AL + Broussard, LA + Tolland, MA + Bogalusa, LA + Montgomery, AL +

Lighthouse Adventures:

This past year, I have been able to see lighthouses in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I walked the beaches of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard with some sisters in Christ. What an awesome opportunity that was! During the week of Christmas 1998, I also climbed the lighthouse at Port Bouet in the city of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast of West Africa. I looked far and wide for Santa Claus while we were up there, but didn't see him.

New Songs:

10/98 Merciful Mystery

11/98 The Lamb Not Spared

3/99 Paraclete

6/99 Before You

7/99 LampLighter

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LampLighter:

Baxter was born in the summer of 1996, the day the Olympic torch passed through the city of New Orleans. Five days later, my friend, Kim (a single parent), took him into her home as a foster child. When she discovered that he had been born at the exact time the torch had passed in front of our seminary campus, she felt the Lord saying to her that this baby boy would one day carry the light of Christ. As she held the "Little Man" in her arms, she pledged to raise him to know Christ for as long as she would be allowed to have him in her home. You never know how long you will be allowed to keep a foster child. She had already said a painful goodbye to another little boy several months earlier. On July 28, 1999, Kim adopted Baxter. Now he is her very own three year old son. For life. He cannot be disowned or disinherited. I know it's true because I witnessed the entire procedure through the lens of my camera as the official court photographer. I also know it's official because the judge, Ernestine Gray, took Baxter into her lap and gave him the gavel and he personally banged it on the desk when everything was over. He told our church family at prayer meeting: "My mommy belongs to me now!" That said it all. I was glad he could speak for his mommy was speechless. So were most of the rest of us. I was relieved, for now I could finally finish the song I have been "praying" for him through the first three years of his life. I dedicated the song to his mother in musical agreement with her promise and prayer for him. The song for "Bax-a-million" is called "LampLighter." Please pray it with me for all our children as we pass the torch of Christ along to them. The race is long and the road is dark. Our time with them is so limited and so precious and so swiftly gone. All we can really give to them is the light of Christ...and that will be enough.

...tiny hands...tiny feet...little man on the street...child of grace...not alone...we will take you home. Who are you? Who am I? Love again?!! I will try. child of joy...not alone...we will build a home. Gift of God...Son of mine...to have and to hold...for a time...child of peace...not alone...we will share a home. Take the torch and bear the flame! Hold it high, in Jesus' name! He will call and you will go...for He loves you, this I know, yes, He loves you, this I know. Light the fire...sow the seed...walk with God and let Him lead...He will keep you through the night...ever shining brighter...LampLighter. You are His Heavenly Father, so help us teach him how to grow. Child of God...not alone...we will lead him home. We will lead him home. Kyle Baxter Craig, I love your guts. +B+B+

Bible Studies:

+Joshua & the Stones of Remembrance
+Knee-Walking Thru "Knee"-hemiah
+LightMaker, LightKeeper, Lighthouses
+People Touching Jesus Touching
+The Line and the Lamb: Tracing the Tribe of Judah from Jacob's dream to Jerusalem's Cross
+Twelve Little Prophets
+This One Thing

Email Address:

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Little Brown Tape:

+STILL contains nine original musical compositions sung by Bec and Isaac with the help of some of our special little friends from my church.
+STILL costs \$10.00 per cassette
+STILL available like me (...tee hee)

Silver and Gold:

June 99, my sister and I managed to pull off a big surprise party for our folks. Dad has been in the ministry as a pastor since 1949. We celebrated 50 years of JUBILEE with him. He has finally entered what many have called "retirement." That was the GOLD. Our wonderful God-given mom, Elsie, has been in our home since 1974. This August, she and Dad will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. That was the SILVER. It was truly a night to remember for both of them and for all of us who were able to attend. Of course, preachers of the gospel NEVER really retire as long as they have breath to preach. Dad and Elsie are planning some volunteer mission trips very soon. Dad has already been to Honduras to help build a dormitory for a camp there.

Books I Have Read:

Out of the Dust (Karen Hesse) + Sound of Wings: the Life of Amelia Earhart (Mary S. Lovell) + The Path (Laurie Beth Jones) + Journals of Jim Elliot (Elisabeth Elliot) + The Writing Life (Annie Dillard) + Tuesdays with Morrie (Mitch Albom) + Repent or Else (Vance Havner)

Big Wera's Ten

Commandments:

(1.) Love God. (2.) Keep your commitments. (3.) Serve the Lord through your church. (4.) Honor your parents. (5.) Be honest. (6.) Tithe and you will never beg for bread. (7.) Any home can be a castle. (8.) Be respectful and obedient. (9.) Fulfill the Lord's purpose for you...and last but not least... (10.) Get home before dark.

Little Brown Light: email devotional from me to you. Write to my email address and I will add your name to the cyberspace mailing list!

Tell the Story

Sing the Songs

Draw the Hearts