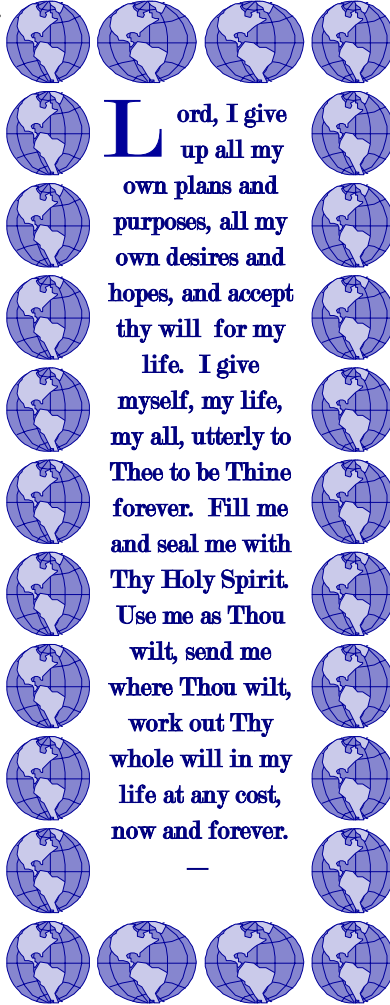


But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. (Mt. 6:33) This has been my testimony while on deputation; and by just surrendering myself to seek God and His will, God has blessed me with so much more than I could have ever hoped.

For all of you who have been faithfully praying that God would give me a husband before reaching the mission field — would you be surprised to know the Lord has answered your prayers?!!! I was engaged to BIMI Missionary Luke Townsley on August 23. Our wedding date is set for December 10, 1999. If I started giving you all the details, you might find it hard to believe. The unique details of how it has all come together can only be credited to a wonderful, sovereign God. Although my plans for Uganda were great, God's plan was greater — *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Is. 55:9)* I cannot fully comprehend how God has led me thus far, but I continue to fully trust that His plan for my life is the very best — *His way is perfect! (Ps. 18:30)*

After I graduated from college in '98, I knew the Lord wanted me to **step out** and **go** to the mission field, but I still was not sure exactly where. It was then I remembered: *By faith Abraham... he went out in faith*



Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all, utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt, send me where Thou wilt, work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever.

not knowing whither he went... and ...without faith it is impossible to please Him. (Heb. 11:8,6) I did want to please the Lord, and I knew this was an opportunity to increase my faith. I surrendered to step out and head in a direction (Africa) and trust Him to lead me. Little did I know that it would be that very step of faith that would allow me to meet my future husband. I realize now that God had just been testing my full surrender to go to the field single, although He already had another plan.

I was first introduced to Luke Townsley by Dr. Sisk while I was at BIMI being accepted by the board in December '98. Since Luke was headed for the Dominican Republic, I did not think much about it. Although my heart was definitely set on Africa and the opportunities there, the Lord began working a "new thing." Luke wrote me a letter sharing his testimony, and we began corresponding.

A few months later, I was forced to face the question: Did my call to Africa supersede my call to marriage? At that time, I wanted to answer "Africa, of course", but God would not give me peace with that answer. Again I was faced with my commitment — was my commitment still to the Lord and His will above my own desires? (Africa was in reality home to me). It was then that He reminded me of when I was called to the mission

..."teaching them to observe all things...":

- ◆ winning and discipling souls
- ◆ starting Bible clubs in public schools
- ◆ training nationals to teach the Bible

Home Address:
17326 Jayhawk Rd
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-4444

E-mail: hannah35@juno.com

Mission Address:
Baptist International Missions, Inc.

sion field two years ago, my call was simply to “go.” At that time, the Lord had given me Isaiah 42:6,7. I had also marked verses 9,10, and 12 thinking that the Lord was trying to tell me to go to a certain “place” through those verses. Because I did not understand them, I decided to act on what I did know (vs. 6,7) and if the Lord wanted me to see something at a later time, He would make it clear. Little did I know that the Lord would bring the full meaning of those verses to me a few years later. *“Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all are that is therein: the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. Let them give glory unto the Lord and declare his praise in the islands.”* (the Dominican Republic !!!). When I realized what had been there all along, I knew then that I could not ignore something God had obviously placed in my path.

I am so excited that God has brought such a godly man into my life that is committed to serving the Lord. Not only will I have the privilege of serving the Lord with Luke Townsley in the Dominican Republic, but I will also be serving in a country much like East Africa. It is a third world country, and the majority of the people are black and mulatto (white and black). We will be learning Spanish, but with about 500,000 Haitians currently in the country, I will



*Behold, I
send an Angel
before thee to
keep thee in
the way and
to bring thee
into the place
which I have
prepared for
thee.*

Ex. 20:23



my French (which I learned growing up on the mission field). The people there are really open to the Gospel; and the opportunities for ministries with the children, ladies, and medical care are numerous. The way God has worked for both of us on deputation, Luke and I should have enough combined support to leave for the field in the first part of 2000. What a blessing to be able to leave for the field so soon!

While on deputation, God has allowed me to see a number of young people surrender their lives to the Lord, and to challenge many single young ladies to be committed to the Lord and His plan above finding a mate. My burden was so great that I asked the Lord if it was not for me to reach the children of Uganda, would He please provide someone to go in my place. God has already seen fit to answer that prayer through another single lady now on her way to Uganda. I pray that God has used my testimony to influence others with a burden to pray and go; but above all to be completely committed to God’s perfect plan and daily leading in their lives. I simply desire to allow God to use my life in whatever way He sees fit to bring Him the most honor. May Christ receive the glory in all that He has done! As you rejoice with me in God’s goodness, I want to thank you for your continued prayer and financial support which will expedite our departure to our field of service.

By His Grace,