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Date: Mon, 20 Jul 2009 13:16:31

To: <CEB@BlairFoundation.com>

Subject: Website Inquiry-Blair Foundation

I have traveled to Ethiopia before with the Blair Foundation and was trying to connect another missionary with you, but I found on the Internet where Dr. Blair had passed.

I am saddened by his passing. He was a true man of God who walked in such love and humility.

I am still interested in seeing what this ministry may continue to do in the future, knowing Dr. Blair was working to put in place men of God to keep it going.

Please let me know what the plans are for the continuing of The Blair Foundation - The Ethiopia Call.

Thank you so much.

August 17, 2009

My dear friend:

We get a lot of email, but this one really caught our attention! So much so, in fact, that **I decided it was time that I swallow what little pride I have left, and share with you just how I am doing.**

First of all, I am – at this moment, anyway, alive. But for three years, I have battled chronic urinary tract infections, and was developing a growing resistance to a wide range of antibiotics.

At the doctors' suggestion, in April I underwent outpatient surgery to implant a superpubic catheter. The surgery was a success, but recovery from the anesthesia and pain pills was a nightmare that required intensive, targeted therapy. That was an ordeal I hope to never go through again.

The first few days, I had to have a nurse sitting beside me round the clock. I hadn't had a stroke, I just wasn't with it mentally. They spoon-fed me like a baby. They asked me the same questions over and over, and played simple children's games with me to get my mind and memory working again. After about two weeks, I improved and boy, was I happy to be home!

Over the years, I have given a lot of people advice. In fact, for many years on radio and TV, I closed each broadcast with the simple admonition – “Remember to Smile, Look Up, and Trust!”

Now, instead of facing the camera each week, I'm facing the mirror. (I liked the camera better.)

And instead of giving the advice, I'm having to remember it – “Smile, Look Up, and Trust.” And although I know it's good advice, some days it's more difficult to actually achieve it than others!

I have fought fatigue and confusion – depression, loss of appetite and a couple of falls. Some days I win; other days, they do – to one degree or another.

I have always read a book a week; now Betty reads it to me. My pen and yellow legal pad present more of a challenge than usual. When I make it to church, it is with a cane or walker.

I used to zip around town by myself; now my car has a “chauffeur” and a handicap tag.

In days gone by, I was the one making the calls and visits; but recently my agenda has been dictated by nurses, occupational and physical therapists. I used to dictate my own letters and email, now I lean on my staff to help me convey my thoughts.

However – I have not had a stroke.... I can still Smile.

**My back and knees aren't great, but my neck and eyes are okay....
I can still Look Up.**

**My faith is still fixed on the Almighty and the promises He has given
I can still Trust.**

I am grateful. And I am blessed.

Someday – and maybe soon barring our Lord's return – you will probably hear that Charles Blair is gone. Maybe before my 89th birthday on September 12th; probably after. But I wanted to be involved in sharing where I am at this point in time.

My family and I have grown closer. Friendships have deepened. My staff has proven faithful and capable – even when I have been unable to give them their full pay.

But in the attached email, I noticed something even more important than the fact that they thought Charles Blair had passed.

They were wondering what the Blair Foundation “ministry may continue to do in the future, knowing” that I “was working to put in place men of God to keep it going.”

Perhaps you are wondering the same – especially now that you know just how ill I have been, and how old I am, and that I am still struggling with recuperation.

The fact is, it is my hope and prayer – and my wife Betty's as well – that the ministry WILL continue to DO in the future – whether we are here or “passed on.” And it is true that we have worked to put in place men – and women – of God to keep it going.

And you are one of them!

Without you and your undergirding of prayer and your financial support, there never would have been any ministry. Betty and I and the Foundation team were just the stewards and the facilitators.

Just as Betty and I have counted on you in the past, we are believing that we can count on you to help continue our ministry now – and after we are gone.

To that end, here are some of the steps my family and the Charles E. Blair Foundation Board of Directors have taken:

- Because of my illness and the great ongoing ministry opportunities and needs that the Blair Foundation has, my grandson Marrles Moore and Pastor Ray Noah have been appointed Co-Presidents. I have stepped down as CEO and will assume the title Founder/President Emeritus.
- The original 1,000 churches planted in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia are thriving – though many are suffering great persecution. Those churches are planting other churches and are now self-sustaining, requiring no ongoing support from us. That frees us to move into other regions to repeat what we did in Benishangul-Gumuz. Those plans are underway; and while I may not see them come to fruition, I **“Smile”** knowing that what we began God continues to bless and multiply for His glory!
- The Kamashi hospital site, building materials and equipment in Benishangul-Gumuz stands guarded and at-the-ready. Although Ethiopian government red tape has stalled construction, we believe God has supplied another avenue to legally resume construction – hopefully this year.
- The March of Prophecy presentations and DVD project have also taken another – greater turn for the best. We are currently working on the production of a 3-D version that will specifically target generations younger than me and yet to be born!

This is a heavy letter, I know. It has been hard to write; perhaps hard for you to read. Because of that, I’ll wait to share further details.

But the thing that I most want you to hear loud and clear is this:

Whether Charles Blair is alive or not, the principles I have believed and worked a lifetime to share and instill in others around the world are solid and true and eternal. Our job of continuing to share and instill them will not be over when I am gone – or when you are gone. It will only be over when you and I rise to meet the Lord in the air.

I’m **“Looking Up”** anticipating that moment; and my friend, I am **“Trusting”** that regardless of my status, you will continue to partner in this ministry that bears my name: The Charles E. Blair Foundation. And someday we will rejoice together in what God has continued to do when we meet each other – and Him – in the air!

Pastor Blair

