

May 31, 2017

A Season of Change

I thought this would be a good time to touch base with you before the distractions of summer overtake us. Several matters could benefit from your consideration and prayer.

We are particularly grateful for the donors who helped us through the winter dry period. As is typical, donations were down in the first quarter of the year. But 2017 was more challenging than most years so, to those who kept the message going out, a big “thank you.” Summer is the other time when we usually see a financial slump. If you usually support us, but need a reminder... this is it!



As the headline on this page proclaims, we are in a season of change. Some changes are working their way through the system now; others are coming in the weeks and months ahead. Some, you may have heard about; others may be new to you.

First things first: Here, at our office in St. Catharines, we are anticipating a major adjustment. Next year, I will complete 25 years with the ministry. For several years, the board and I have discussed succession plans and together have decided that now is the time to “pull the trigger.” We feel it’s the right time to bring in fresh thinking and youthful energy as FBH International moves into the future. To make the change as easy as possible for the new president, Deborah will also retire at roughly the same time I do. We are asking the Lord to help us identify three people to fill the two existing positions, sometime in the next 12 to 18 months. We anticipate a brief overlap period as the new people come on board. This is an exciting prospect for both Deborah and me: to see who the Lord will bring along to guide the ministry in its next steps. [Join us in praying for open eyes and hearts as we seek the necessary new personnel.](#)

Ukraine: Ludmila, who produced our Ukrainian program for more than a decade has had to respond to a family crisis. Her daughter-in-law died suddenly last year and Ludmila and her husband, Mikhail, emigrated to help their son and his children in the US, during their time of loss. New, younger broadcasters, Alex and Nadiya, are now responsible for the program.

They are using material I prepared on the book of James as their first series. I'm looking forward to helping them get established. [Pray that Alex and Nadiya will connect to the existing audience and grow it as they bring fresh voices and ideas to the program.](#)

Russia: Our friend Oleg, who met some of our supporters on his visit here a few years ago, continues to be responsible for the production of our programs originating in Moscow. However, Radio Teos has faced many changes imposed by external forces, like: having to shift from AM broadcasting to online, having to respond to governmental restrictions on who can speak on their programs, having to adjust their promotional work for the station. In responding to these, FEBC's Russian Ministries department has had to make some administrative changes to add necessary expertise. [Pray that the personnel adjustments will enhance the ability of Radio Teos to reach more Russian speakers than ever.](#)

Arab World: After more than a dozen years of working with our friend Hugo as director of Arab World Media, we recently met Mark, the man who is taking his place. Hugo will be moving up and will be Mark's boss but, from now on, our connections to the team will be through Mark. He has been living in London, Ontario, and hopes to move to England this summer. [Pray that he may get the necessary visa without undue delays and that he will find adequate housing and transportation for his family of eight.](#)

Related to the Arab World, I want to mention another specific item for prayer. In the last six months, ISIS has carried out three significant attacks on Christians in Egypt. This is a great concern to the Egyptian government, which fears the disruption that radical Islam is bringing to the nation. Consequently, officials have begun looking more closely at all Christian activity. [Pray particularly for the AWM team members who are living in this increasingly tense environment. Ask the Lord to strengthen their faith, grant them courage, and give them fruit for their labour.](#)

Thank you for sharing your time with me today for this frank and important chat. I appreciate your support and interest in the past and solicit them for the future. We have some exciting days ahead. I look forward to having you along for the ride!

Your fellow-servant,



President

P.S. If you would like to receive letters like this by email rather than through the post office, please contact Deborah by phone (1-800-567-1218) or email (deborah@fbhinternational.com). Electronic distribution definitely saves money, and is faster, too.