



Mark and Carol Doss

Central District Church Planter Missionaries
Central Iowa

June 2007

Dear Friends,

The rush is on to be ready for a sabbatical in July and August. The Central District offers a two-month sabbatical every five years for the associate staff. Five years ago I (Mark) was nervous about planning for a two-month sabbatical. This time our plans are in place and I am ready as soon as my desk is cleared and we attend the EFCA Leadership Conference in Minneapolis.

I have about four weeks of travel and four weeks of time at home planned. Carol and I will spend a week at Cedarly Retreat Center for Pastors in Delafield, Wisconsin while Eli attends camp at Hidden Acres and Andy continues working at Hidden Acres. Then our family will head southeast to Atlanta to visit my sister, enjoy a family gathering and enjoy sightseeing. Carol and I will leave the Des Moines International Airport on August 3rd for Paris, France to once again be a part of a team that serves our EFCA missionaries in Europe for their annual Family Conference. We have the opportunity to spend time with the teens, enjoy their company and, hopefully, encourage and challenge them. We will return on August 19th and Andy will begin classes at Iowa State University on August 20th. Carol needs to fit her work schedule in between our travels so it will be a busy time for our family but the change of pace from regular ministry responsibilities will be good.

In the meantime we just celebrated Eli's 9th birthday. His birthday was June 24th and we celebrated with the Cornerstone Fellowship family in Greenfield, Iowa. We actually started the celebration a couple of days early when Eli had seven friends come last Friday night for a party. We went swimming at the new Family Life Center at Hidden Acres and then spent the night there. Another special day in June is our wedding anniversary, which is June 26th. Carol and I are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year!

In the area of church planting I have tried to connect with each of the church plants before July 1st. Hopefully everyone is set for the next two months and won't miss me checking in on them! I am sure that our Lord will keep these various ministries making good progress but your prayers are greatly appreciated for the various church plants that I oversee. My current group of approved projects includes North Pointe Church, Ankeny, IA; Timberline EFC, Urbandale, IA; Hope EFC, Webster City, IA; Faith Bible Fellowship, West Union, IA; Immanuel EFC, St. Louis, MO; Amazing Grace Community Church, Cuba, MO; and Lake Area EFC, Osage Beach, MO. I also have a lengthy list of prospects that I hope will continue to develop and become a part of our Central District church planting network.



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On the subject of prayer, thank you for praying for the work of church planting in the Central District and for the Doss family. We are grateful for your prayers, interest and support! We also appreciate your prayers for our family plans and travel during the sabbatical, as well as our ministry time in France.

If you wish to contact us during July and August, please call our home, 515-432-8431 or use my home email address, centralplanter@msn.com. (My district office email box will fill up quickly with junk mail and I won't see the important emails!) For any ministry related questions or if you can't reach us, call the District office, 515-432-9175 and someone from our ministry team will help you.

Serving Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Mark, Carol, Andy & Eli Doss

"That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it"

(Hebrews 4:14-16, NLT).