

Welcome, Ferguson Family to the WISE family!

(The Fergusons will be wearing many hats as they join the WISE staff for at least the next 18 months. They will be teaching at the preschool and college, organizing the library, mentoring and recruiting students, and building relationships in the St. Vincent community.)

We are excited to begin both a new adventure and what we believe is a calling by God to serve students in the Caribbean through WISE. We've been WISE supporters for several years and have enjoyed short-term mission trips to this beautiful island several times.

We have varied vocational and volunteer experiences that don't necessarily seem to add up to serving at a mission college on a tropical island. But it is amazing to see how God has knitted these experiences together to prepare us (somewhat!) for coming here. Dave has been a family practice physician in the past, part of that time teaching medical students and residents. Pam is trained as a dietician but has spent most of her professional life working in libraries. Dave recently finished the semester at Ozark Christian College and they will both be flying in this week.

We have two children, Andy, 24, who works for a minor league baseball team in Tulsa, Okla., and Mallory, 22, who is a senior at the University of Missouri in Columbia studying speech pathology (or whatever it is). Both Andy and Mallory have visited St. Vincent and served on short-term mission teams here. They are excited about the work we will be doing.

We have been especially encouraged by the teaching, friendship and support we have received through our home church, Day Spring Church, in Fort Collins.

Please pray for us as we begin work in unfamiliar surroundings—that God will provide the wisdom and energy for us to follow his call. Also, pray for our children in the States, as they navigate young adulthood with us further away than usual.

We are looking forward to serving with you!

- Dave and Pam Ferguson, WISE Staff



W.I.S.E. Wish List

Here are some needs we are still looking to purchase for WISE, if you wish to give for a specific need. Prices are in US if we purchase here.

1.) 3 Desktop Computers for Lab

2.) A 3 Week Adjunct Teacher this spring

- So thankful for the help of getting the needed tools!



This year we were privileged to have 3 staff sent to us to help us out. Becky Doran sent by the MU Campus House, Marisa Romero sent by Mountainview Christian Church, and Stan Wohlenhous, our former professor at Ozark Christian College.

All 3 added so much to our WISE family. We are thankful for them, and we will greatly miss them. On Bro Stan's last evening with us he wrapped all of his leftover items he was leaving- books, clothes, toiletries and did a gift exchange for all the student's. What a blast they had, and so much they learned from his teaching this fall. Thank you 3 so much for your sacrifice and teaching!

Praises & Prayers

- For recruiting trip and retreat to Trinidad next week.
- For another 3 week adjunct teacher this spring.
- Praise for the help of MU Campus House and Mountainview sending Becky and Marisa for a semester.
- For families of those lost in recent flooding here.
- Prayers for our graduates serving all over- for their physical needs to be met as they minister.
- Praise a great turnout of new families hearing the story of Christ coming.
- Praise for several churches teaming up to help send gifts for our all our students and ministries.

WISE

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Our students shared a play, "A Night in Bethlehem" to the community in 3 different settings this year: at 9 Mornings, Poleyard, and Arnos Vale.

Praying for a New Year Full of God's Love for You

What if Michael Jordan, Bill Gates, and Charlie Sheen all became Christians? Often times I can let my mind loose and wonder how much the world would change if someone famous became a follower of Jesus Christ. The "what if's" begin to swirl as I think, "Wow, they have such influence, power, and fame...what they could do for the Kingdom of God would be amazing!"

At this time of the year, God reminds us the fallacy in this thinking. Make no mistake, it would be amazing if some of these people would follow Jesus and make a splash for Christ in this world. It also distracts us from our own responsibility and minimizes the power of the Spirit within us. In Luke 2:8-20 does the angel appear to the Emperor of Rome, King Herod, or to the High Priest in Jerusalem? Nope, God comes to lowly shepherds in a field.

Shepherds were overlooked and

avoided by many, but not to God. Why? What if what was important to God.....is not what is important to men? What if the glamour, the worldly achievements, the status, the title, the wealth mean nothing to Him, but instead a teachable, moldable, humble, and willing heart is what He looks for.

Remember the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

The Shepherds had this same heart for the Lord. The manger is a wonderful reminder of the special gift of love that the Father sent to this world. The shepherds are a wonderful reminder of ordinary men with willing hearts that impacted the world. I'm an ordinary person...the question this season is how is my heart?

Merry Christmas and Happy 2014!

- Brice