



Thomas speaking at Dayspring PCA.



Thomas speaking with PCA Pastor, William Gunter about Florida Politics.



Thomas visits with WA State Senator, Steve O'Ban.



## Gratitude for God's Plan and Providence

**“Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the LORD'S contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments”.**

**Exodus 35:21**

One of our favorite passages, since Lorelei is an artist, is in Exodus 31 and 35, where Bezalel and Oholiab are filled with the Holy Spirit; not for preaching or evangelizing, but for making beautiful things for God. As we are reading through the bible together this year, we have been impressed by the scope of what God asked of Israel in the making of the Tent of Meeting and the Tabernacle. So much **DETAIL** was given by God for each work of art. There were so many holy things to create, and they weren't cheap. When we learned what the weights of the items were, it was mind boggling. Can you even fathom the cost of a 75-pound solid gold candelabra (Exodus 25:31–40)? Or a similar weight of silver for tent curtain rings? Yet in Exodus 35, God stirred the hearts and moved the spirits of his people, and they gave so much, that God sent Moses to tell them to **STOP!**

Dr. Robert Rayburn, Faith PCA, Tacoma, WA, introduces Thomas.



Thomas speaking to Faith PCA in Tacoma, Washington.



Thomas holding newest Granddaughter, Ona Lena Grace Eddy, born January 28th 2016.

**These contributions were probably small. Earrings, rings, spoons, other jewelry and household items made from bronze, silver and gold. We need to always remember the Israelites were slaves. The Egyptians showered them with many of these items as they left (Exodus 12:33–36) and it would have been, for most families, the only wealth they had ever acquired. God moved them to give these up, and the response was so great, there was more than enough to make everything God commissioned for His worship. Small contributions, made by many, can provide all the needs of a missionary. We are learning that as we have visited churches to raise support. We need to be reminded of that every day; this is God’s work. He called us to it. He will supply all our needs. (Philippians 4:19).**

**There is something else in the passage God reminded us about. Moses had to ask the people of Israel before he got a response. So we must not be shy in our asking. We are so grateful to God for those that have given already and blessed by the responses so far. Thank you!**

**We are looking for our first 50 people who will be regular contributors of \$50, \$25, or \$10 a month. Please pray and ask our LORD if you could be one of these contributors. The amount does not matter as much as the regular giving. One earring was not much but when many gave that 75-pound solid gold candelabra, skillfully wrought to display God’s Glory, was the result. Click on the link icon at the bottom of this newsletter to contribute.**

### **Gratitude for Where We've Been**

**During the months of January and February, we have visited churches our family has been members of since we**

became members of the PCA. Dayspring Presbyterian Church is in Spring Hill, Florida, and it is the church where I was ordained. We were able to introduce the congregation to MTS during a luncheon after the service. During this trip, I met another PCA pastor from the presbytery there, who ran for office in the last cycle. He gave me insight into the political world. He was also very encouraging about starting MTS in Tallahassee. We visited Faith Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington, the second congregation we were members of. We spoke during their Wednesday night prayer meeting. After introducing the ministry to them, we opened the floor for questions, and they had a lot of very good ones.

One we will likely get often is, “When do you think you can bring MTS to our State Capitol”. Faith has a state Senator, Steve O’Ban, in their congregation. Steve and I were able to meet during this visit, and discuss the ministry. The third congregation we were a part of is Covenant Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, near Atlanta. We have visited a number of times during the last two months. Covenant is where two of our married children and four of our grandchildren worship. We have spoken to individuals and to the pastor, Jamie Lambert, about the ministry. We plan to meet with their missions committee in the near future.

During the next two months, we will plan trips to Helena, Montana, and Columbia, SC. We will visit with Steve Bostrom, in Helena, who is currently our only ministry in a state capitol. There are a large number of PCA churches close to the capitol and there are a few ministers I already know well in Columbia. This is where we will begin our

**second mission to a state capitol.**

**How can you help?**

- 1. Pray for God to move the hearts called to supply the resources to set up the ministry in Columbia and other state capitols. If He moves you, please click on the green icon with a link in it below.**
- 2. Pray that Lorelei and I will keep our focus on God's plan for the ministry and not His Provision of the financial means. The Kingdom of God and The Truth are first.**
- 3. Pray for your specific political leaders. Steve Bostrom shared a resource with me, and I would encourage you to sign up with. <http://pray1tim2.org/> will send you emails with the names and specific prayer for your individual political leaders.**
- 4. If your church has a mission committee, ask if they would meet with us. We would love to visit your church and let them know about the ministry to political leaders.**
- 5. If you are interested in starting MTS in your state capitol, email us and let's start a dialog.**



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