
A Personal Word

The Lord has done marvelous things in 2017!

- Ingrid and I were married in the Congo
- We celebrated in a family reunion of over 200 family members
- I spoke at the 80th birthday celebration of my "favorite" uncle
- Enjoyed other family and friend gatherings
- Ministry took us to six countries and multiple US states with outcomes that only God in His marvelous grace could grant.

I am so grateful for all the Lord has done and for **YOUR** prayer and support.

The year wasn't without trial and sadness as we experienced loss of family members and longtime friends as well as rare experiences in some dark and desperate places around the world. And yet, generously sprinkled throughout the year, God gifted us by placing us in some of the most serene places on this earth and granting many beautiful moments. Some of these I have shared with you by way of my blog, but here is a more recent and simple moment that leaves a deep imprint on my heart. I stopped by to give a birthday gift to one of my teenage granddaughters. As she rounded the corner and saw me standing there, the radiant smile on her face was the greater gift to me. I have many images of my grandchildren across the year that bring me much joy! Although we are invited and even commanded by our Lord to take the gospel to all peoples and find great fulfillment in doing so, nothing can bring more joy than seeing our adult children teaching our grandchildren to love the Lord and to have shared moments-of-life with them. No wonder the Psalmist said, "May you live to see your children's children" (Psalm 128:6). Many of you have prayed for my family as you have prayed for me. I am deeply grateful. 2017 has been a blessed year – yes, some challenges and heartbreak along the way, yet joyful moments of ecstasy and accomplishment. Thank you for walking with me. As we soon close the year and begin a new one, we do so with great expectation and anticipation.

Ministry and Marriage



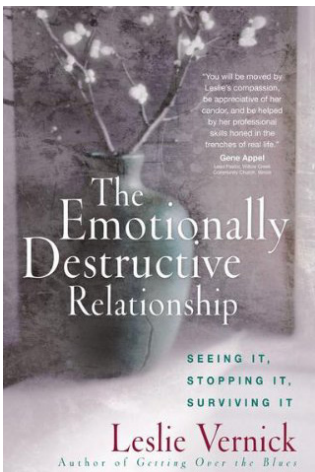
Ingrid and I were married September 3 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo! The ceremony was a part of our mission platform and was attended by 2000 unanticipated persons!

Read about it at <http://www.garycrawfordleadership.com/blog/post/a-message-from-congo-part-ii>

2017 Ministry Outcomes

- **Argentina** — participated in Timothy Barnabas conference led by Johnny Hunt in training 900 persons representing 37 countries
- **Congo** — working in partnership with the International Mission Board and the Congo Baptist Convention, we trained 300 persons in leadership principles including 25 pastors, treated 300 children and 200 adults medically, saw 350 come to Christ, 22 baptized, provided support for the distressed Haller Orphanage, distributed Bibles
- **Kenya** — worked in partnership with our national leader, Linus Kiriimi, among the Tharaka and Turkana people to encourage 9 new church plants and provide food for the most desperate
- **Rwanda** — met Rev. Munyamasoko Gato Corneillie, General Secretary of the Rwandan Baptist Convention
- **Brazil** — served on the board for Amazon Vision Ministries, seeing 5 teams into the West Amazon Basin providing the gospel, medical and dental help, leadership training, and church planting
- **Baptist College of Florida** — preached in chapel, taught, and met with faculty and students
- **Men's retreat** — led retreat for Parkridge Baptist Church of Boca Raton
- **Preached** — in churches in Florida
- **Southern Baptist Convention** — shared ministry opportunities and attended the commissioning of Kevin Singerman to Africa
- **IMB Leadership Conference** — Participated in the IMB Global Advance Council
- **North American Mission Board** — church planting in Montreal
- **Hosted missionaries** — in my home from 3 countries
- **Hosted an international gathering** — 149 persons from 9 countries
- **Coaching** — completed certification for Life Coach, Leadership Coach and most recently, Associate Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation, using these skills both in ministry and business settings

Leadership Library



Recommended reading:

"The Emotionally Destructive Relationship" by Leslie Vernick

An emotionally destructive relationship can sometimes be difficult to see. Leslie Vernick gives significant insights in how to recognize such a relationship in marriage (and other relationships), and then provides guidance on how to deal with these in a helpful way.

Spring Ministry Vision 2018

VISION — Individuals, organizations, institutions and churches having clarity of vision, mission and strategy

MISSION — To bring Leadership Coaching for personal and organizational growth and performance.

Coaching enables you to become what you would not and to accomplish what you could not, alone. It provides help to Clarify your vision, Develop a strategy, and Provide accountability.

OBJECTIVES

1. To spread the gospel cross-culturally
2. To provide educational opportunities and train leaders globally
3. To support Bible translation and distribute Bibles in places where they are hard to get
4. To support the work of caring for children in distress
5. To help Christians in restricted and hostile circumstances
6. To raise funding in support of these ministries
7. To create a foundation for the endowment of these ministries

LOCATIONS

- Florida — Leadership training for the Board for Lake Yale Assembly in January
- Argentina — Leadership with WORD OF LIFE ARGENTINA and marriage retreat in February
- Brazil — interior indigenous tribe in March
- North Carolina — Professional Christian Coaching retreat in April
- Canada — Leadership training in April

"True empathy, to me, is putting yourself outside your own world view, separating from your own experiences and placing yourself not just into the shoes of another person, but in their head space, tapping into their intrinsic humanity and emotional experience. Once you do that, you can reach a level of understanding that changes frustration and annoyance into compassion, understanding and, often, a desire to help."

—Jack Papazian

Ministry and Coaching

Tentatively, I will be sharing about Amazon Vision Ministries at the annual retreat for Professional Christian Coach Institute, in hopes of developing a team of professional leadership coaches to participate in the river ministry.

I'm grateful to have completed the ICF Certification, and received the following letter from the International Coaching Federation:



"By choosing to earn an ICF Credential, you have earned the credibility conferred by the only globally recognized professional coaching credential.

Thank you for demonstrating your dedication to excellence in the coaching industry. We wish you continued success and good fortune."

With Respect,
ICF Credentialing Staff
International Coach Federation

Leadership Quote

"I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

—Booker T. Washington

Kenya



Turkana People



Tharaka People

Congo



Baptism



Congo Orphanage

Florida Baptist Children's Home



Jerry Haag



Jeffrey Haglund

IMB & International Ministry



David Platt
IMB Global Advance Council



Hosted International Ministry Party

Amazon Vision Ministries



Our Beginning

Amazon Vision Ministries was founded in 2002 as a result of a fishing trip to Brazil by a group of men from Gainesville, Florida. Pastor Gary Crawford of Westside Baptist Church, his son, John Crawford, and local businessman, Joe Fincher, were overwhelmed by both the need and the openness of the people they encountered along the Amazon River. As they spoke with the "Ribeirinhos," or river people, they began to realize how this area desperately needed the hope of the Gospel!

Since 2002, we have:

- Visited 160 villages along the river
- Mobilized 3,500 volunteers
- Seen 26,500 professions of faith
- Provided medical and dental care to over 102,000 patients

In 2017, AVM

- Hosted five teams with 52 team members
- Visited 12 villages
- Treated 827 medical and dental patients
- Conducted 58 Bible studies, including T4T training and marriage studies
- Had 16 professions of faith
- Baptized 1 believer
- Trained 26 church leaders in Anori

We have 12 trips planned for 2018, plus two additional teams pending confirmation. To learn more and join AVM in river ministry, visit us at <https://www.amazonvisionministries.org>.

Through your love, prayer and financial support.

You were a part of all God did!

Thank you! Thank you!

Financial Report

\$50,000 was the ministry goal in 2017. These funds are to support Gary Crawford Leadership Global's ministry in various countries, bringing the hope of Christ, training leaders, planting churches, and helping children in difficult places. This ministry presents reports to the Global Board and files according to IRS regulations. Your support is a tax-deductible gift.

\$29,175 has been received toward these ministries. Thank you very much! Our prayer is to complete the funding and start 2018 strong.

Leadership Laugh

OVERLOAD: Three-year-old Caitlin accidentally put a contemporary spin on the Lord's Prayer that most of us can relate to and might be tempted to pray. She prayed, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from email."

—Significant Living, November 2013, p.35

Prayer Requests

- Family to continually be drawn closer to the Lord and one another
- Health, vigor and wisdom for a rigorous 2018 schedule
- Safety in travel and especially in the more remote areas
- Leaders to be trained, and churches planted
- Funding that will increase what we are able to do in this broad ministry

I always enjoy hearing from you, so drop me a note at drgarylcrawford@gmail.com. In addition, you may want to consider a coaching relationship to take the next step in personal development or towards your next level of professional accomplishment. You may also want to pray about your involvement in global missions – ask me how you can get involved!

Thank you for your interest, time and prayerful support of this ministry that is making a Kingdom Impact locally, nationally, and globally. If you would like to be a part of this global work, please make checks payable to

"Gary Crawford Leadership Global"

Donate online at
www.garycrawfordleadership.com/life-on-mission

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