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Dear NETS Partners,

February 26, 2009

“Wars are not won by evacuations.” So Prime Minister Winston Churchill intoned in his speech before the House of Commons on June 4, 1940. The Nazis had just run through France like a child playing in the field and the allied forces were in total retreat. Complete disaster was averted only through a heroic evacuation at Dunkirk, saving some 335,000 soldiers, mainly British forces.

Churchill had reserved the time before Parliament earlier, prepared to announce the worst military defeat in British history. Instead, he gloried in the evacuation with these words. “A miracle of deliverance, achieved by valour, by perseverance, by perfect discipline, by faultless service, by resource, by skill, by unconquerable fidelity, is manifest to all.” Yet, Churchill showed great perspective when he cautioned, “We must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of victory. Wars are not won by evacuations.”

In our day, it is not popular to talk about the gospel in terms of war. But spiritual warfare language pervades Scripture (Gen. 3, Mark 3, Eph. 6, whole of Revelation). Souls are imprisoned and tyrannized by the spiritual forces of darkness all over the world. The church is urged to take the spiritual offensive. We are told to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and God will meet all our needs. Jesus Christ said: “I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” By His authority we’re to go, we’re to make disciples of all nations, we’re to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins, we’re to be His witnesses, we’re to plunder the strong man’s house. And Jesus promised His abiding presence and abundant provision through His Spirit.

And so we must march on in this spiritual war, with love as our chief apologetic and the gospel of grace and prayer our only weapons. We know that wars are not won by evacuations. We must fight the devil on all fronts if we’re to win. As Churchill continued, “We shall go on to the end, . . . , whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender . . .”

By God’s grace, NETS marches on, through your prayers and support, equipping a crack commando unit of servant leaders to wield weapons which are “divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” And thanks to your prayers and support, our loan was approved for a facility near Harvard. On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, NETS closes on a new home for our Boston plant, Redeemer Fellowship Church. RGC currently seeks a loan for a permanent witness in Georgia, Vermont. CRC (near Dartmouth) seeks environmental and planning commission approval on its property as well. And new plants are contemplated for Portland, Maine and Providence, Rhode Island, not to mention our first international training center, NETS-Africa in Cameroon (see brochure on web).

Our goal is simple. Worldwide domination! We’re marching on so that “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Is. 11:9). Thank you for marching with us. But I ask you to step it up in 2009 to help NETS establish these new and vital beachheads. We need your monthly support like never before. Would you consider becoming a monthly partner this year? Would you consider increasing your monthly gift this year? Even \$25 per month would be huge. We want to keep marching on, filling the earth with the glorious knowledge of Christ.

Soldiering On,

Wes Pastor, President  
The NETS Institute for Church Planting

*Equipping Servant Leaders to Plant Gospel-Driven Churches in New England and Abroad*

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