

LETTER/OATMEAL SENT TO EACH MISSIONARY

21 December 2011

Dear missionary friends:

In October, 2011, our church leadership owned up to the reality we were very behind in giving to our missionaries—faithful folks like you. It just happened. We fell behind. Been a tough year of cash flow for both the church and the members of the congregation. When we figured out our position, including three months in 2010, we were six months behind in our support of missionaries, including you. We had three options, and we talked about all three:

1. Write it off and start fresh.
2. Cut missionaries and live within our means.
3. Sacrificially make it right, trusting for Provision.

Because we were not willing to accept the first two options, we decided to put much of our church on hold. I asked the congregation to make sacrificial gifts to overcome the deficit. Cool things started to happen as the Holy Spirit moved through the hearts of our people:

- one couple gave up their 15th anniversary trip and gave the money to missions.
- one single mom held a garage sale, giving the proceeds to missions.
- one couple donated a classic car, auctioning it off for missions.

We asked every family to pray about it and obey whatever God was telling them to do. As a church, we've postponed the hiring of new staff and we've delayed any other large fundraisers, including missions travel. We knew we needed to make it right with each of you before moving forward with any of our plans. Exciting things begin to happen:

- one business owner designed and donated a special line of his product: Harvest Oats. His company, Coach's Oats (coachsoats.com)

has great oatmeal and he made it available, all profit going directly to you.

I enclose his oatmeal for your spiritual encouragement and your physical enjoyment. It is really good oatmeal. Sorry, I cannot send you all the toppings (i.e., nuts, dried fruit, brown sugar, etc.). After donating the product, the Coach (owner of the oatmeal) bought back enough bags to send to you (that is called a double donation!)

Have fun eating what God has used in our church to bring great awareness to the work you faithfully do. Know you are loved and appreciated. Keep your head high and your eyes fixed on Jesus. He is kind to all of us, especially during the time of year we celebrate His birth!

(By the way, in about 10 weeks, God will have provided almost \$100K, shoring up our support of the work you are doing! May He be praised!)

Merry Christmas!

You are loved,

Pastor Doug Green

(Sorry for potential errors above. Wrote this quickly, trying to get this in the mail.)