



This month we want to give you a quick glimpse into three areas of OC's world. It will only be a glimpse through the window, but we hope it will help in knowing how better to pray for us and OC.

## **BRAZIL**

This month we would ask you to pray for OC's Global Alliance Leadership Conference, October 19-26 at Iguazú Falls, Brazil. This will be a time for all leaders where OC has teams to share with each other what God is doing in their particular country. It will also serve as a time of encouragement as attendees connect with fellow missionaries ... new and old alike. Russ and I will not be going, but pray with us for this very strategic time in the life of OC International and for those who have put time and effort in the planning and implementing of this conference.

## **PHILIPPINES**

Manny Movido, a researcher for OC-Philippine Challenge (PC), has been working hard measuring the church planting that has been done to know what still needs to be done in 25 provinces in the Philippines. Armed with this information, the PC team challenges pastors and churches to adopt a "barangay" (village) during their church planting seminars. To date, a total of 1,995 villages have been adopted. Adoption means that a new church will be planted in barangays "without a church" using the Bayanihan Church Planting concept: This is when laymen do the planting while pastors act as their coaches. Philippine Challenge is training these laymen monthly for 10 months until a new church is planted. Manny exclaimed, "We are sure that there will be a grand celebration in heaven once the almost 2,000 barangays without churches are planted with a new daughter church as we are reminded of Luke 15:10: 'In the same way ... there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'"

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

"Alone Never Again" is the motto for the Pastoring of Pastors (POP) workshop led by John and team. Most church leaders coming to the workshop think they will be trained in new methods and concepts that they can pass on, but they are confronted with something else: the reality that there is a spiritual crisis in Africa. That crisis is that many church leaders are not spiritually healthy—a group to which they might belong! John explains, "Since church members believe their pastors to be the 'spiritual giants,' with no need for care, the leaders give support but do not receive it in return. As a result, leaders walk isolated, alone, and with no care or accountability. It's a recipe for failure." In a deliberate, interactive process, POP begins by creating "crisis" in the leaders by revealing to them that they lack support. Soon thereafter, hope is introduced as the leaders are taken through a process that shows the biblical basis for pastoral care, understanding what pastoral care is and is not, and finally a plan and process for making pastoral care a vital part of their lives. John concludes, "The body of Christ was never created for anyone to walk without encouragement and love. At the end of the workshop, the ministry leaders link their arms together. Together they are reminded, 'Alone Never Again.'"

Once again we thank you for standing with us in the ministry God has called us to. We know you are praying.

With grateful hearts,

*Russ & Sylvia*

Russ and Sylvia Lambert

# From the President...

## The African church on the move!

One of the most thrilling developments of our generation is the spread of Christianity in Africa. Operation World reports that Africans are choosing to follow Jesus at a faster rate than on any other continent. In the past century, the number of believers in Africa has increased from 7 million to an astonishing 504 million Christians!

*The church in Africa is on the move.* Multiplied thousands of African believers are sacrificially taking the gospel to least-reached peoples and places, not only on the continent, but around the world. One West African denomination has planted churches in a stunning 84 countries, including Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

### The Movement for African National Initiatives

**(MANI)** is one of the key catalysts being used by the Lord to accelerate this historic work of the Holy Spirit. MANI represents a network of

African networks committed to mobilizing churches to mission in each nation on the continent. OC has been a core partner with MANI since its launch 10 years ago.



Last month, 600 leaders from 60 nations gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, for the **MANI 2011 Continental Consultation**. These leaders influence many millions of believers in their denominations and organizations.

Sixteen OC leaders from four continents had the privilege to serve at MANI 2011 in practical ways: facilitating the global conversation, planning the church planting track, coordinating registration, and serving the MANI continental team. It was thrilling for our OC personnel to help build bridges of cooperation between African mission leaders and their counterparts from Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

MANI seeks to mobilize the African church to fulfill the Great Commission in every African country and to deploy missionaries to least-evangelized peoples around the world. Priority is given to the estimated 974 unreached people groups in Africa which are concentrated in a band stretching from Senegal to Somalia, where Christianity from the south meets Islam from the north and Christian witness is often extremely costly. This point was underlined during the consultation by news of the burning of two churches and the slaying of 19 Christians just 110 miles away.

Motivated by a desire to bless the nations, the call was issued to "Go north!"—sharing Jesus' love with those who have never heard. African doctors, teachers, and professionals are joining church planters in holistic mission. Evidencing the transforming power of the gospel at MANI 2011, a Nigerian tribal king shared how he had submitted his throne to Jesus. He is being joined by other traditional rulers who desire to be servant-leaders to their people. Indeed, the gospel can change society!

As a Barnabas mission, it's a great joy for OC to serve our African brothers and sisters as they pioneer new ground for God's glory among the nations.

With appreciation for your partnership,

## Did You Know?

*"Africans are choosing to follow Jesus at a faster rate than on any other continent. In the past century, the number of believers in Africa has increased from 7 million to an astonishing 504 million Christians!"*

## Our Vision

Healthy churches working together to disciple all nations.