

Dear Fellow Team Member,

GOD IS AT WORK, AND YOU ARE PART OF WHAT HE IS DOING!

During the months of July and August, we heard and read a number of reports of what is going on in the ministry of OC around the world. We wish you could have heard some of them firsthand. You would have been blessed!

God is raising up missionaries from around the world. At one time the West sent out 99 percent of all missionaries, but now over 70 percent are coming from countries in South America, Africa, and Asia. Over 55 percent of OC's missionaries now come from countries outside the U.S. It is not uncommon for our field teams to be made up of three, four, or more nationalities. It takes good leadership to help team members understand the differences.

God is using team members from South America to reach Europe. Missionaries from Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, and more are now ministering in countries of Europe. Many have responded, and pastors and congregations in European countries are being challenged to reach out to their own people in more effective ways.

God is using technology to reach into lives. Just recently, one of our missionaries told how videos and portable boxes that play prerecorded Christian programs are being used. When listeners hear the Word of God, lives are changed, and many have come to know the Lord.

God is using Christian businessmen and women to help the poor become self-sufficient. In a number of countries we cannot send "regular" missionaries, yet when Christian businessmen and women are willing to train people to run a business, often they are granted an open door. It is exciting to see Christians who have been rejected by their culture able to earn a livelihood, and able to share the love of Jesus to their neighbors.

God is at work revealing himself through miracles and dreams. Often as our missionaries interview new converts, they are told that they had a vision, dream, or have seen miracles which they can only explain as from God.

God is at work in and through you. We are blessed by your financial and prayer support which enables us to continue to meet the needs of our missionaries here in the home office. Thanks for being a team member.

God is at work in our lives. We are humbled that he would use us to be part of his work to reach a needy world in special ways.

Standing in awe,

Russ & Sylvia

From the President...

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES ... HUGE CHALLENGES!

"For a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Corinthians 16:9 NASB



*Greg Gripenrog
OC President*

Did You Know?

"More than one-third of our missionaries are experiencing a significant shortfall in their financial support which is impacting their ministry effectiveness."

Our Vision

Healthy churches working together to disciple all nations.

Although the above words were written by the apostle Paul almost 2,000 years ago, they just as easily could have been written today to describe the realities I am observing as I survey OC's worldwide ministry. Never before in the 59-year history of the mission have we had the breadth of global ministry impact that we are currently experiencing, with our teams of missionaries significantly impacting the healthy growth and expansion of the church in more than 100 countries of the world!

However, at the same time we are seeing this increasing strategic ministry impact, with additional doors for new ministries standing open before us, we are also experiencing a number of huge challenges which are impacting our ability to follow through on the growing number of ministry opportunities the Lord is opening up for us. These challenges vary from team to team and country to country. However, one challenge being faced by our entire missionary family is the financial challenge caused by the continuing economic downturn in the United States.

The extended economic downturn has significantly impacted the ability of many of our donors and partner churches to continue to maintain the level of financial support they had been providing for the missionaries with whom they are partnering financially. As a result, even though on every level of the mission we have sought to continue to cut budgets and reduce expenses, **as we came to the end of the summer more than one-third of our missionaries were experiencing a significant shortfall in their financial support which was impacting their ministry effectiveness.**

September 30 marks the end of OC's fiscal year. In light of the financial pressures so many of our missionaries are facing, I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider whether the Lord would have you make a special contribution this month to enable the OC missionaries you help support to end this fiscal year in a strengthened financial position. At the bottom of this prayer letter is a response slip, along with an envelope, to assist you to carry out whatever God puts upon your heart.

With a grateful heart for your continued partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Greg Gripenrog".