



Dear Praying Friend,

Change moves me out of my comfort zone!

This past December I was in on a conference call with our bank institution. We were talking about new government regulations that will impact OC, especially the Finance Department, in 2011.

As I have reflected on those changes, I realize that this is simply the world we are living in today. A world made up of yearly, monthly, weekly, and daily changes ... that impact us all.



One change that will affect me is in the area of electronic giving. The government is requiring that with every new donor who chooses to use OC's ACH (automated clearing house, aka electronic fund transfers [EFTs]) program, a background check will need to be done on their name. The government has set up a website with a list of names that I will need to check against. If the name appears on the list, I am then to contact a government official. Oftentimes, I have 10-20 new donors in any given month, which will now take extra time and research on my part.

Another change in my department is that we are being asked to divide up our already existing 1,200-plus donors who give by ACH and reclassify them as individuals and organizations. So instead of keeping track of two files on a monthly basis, there will now be four files.

Perhaps these changes do not seem so big. Are they bad changes? Not necessarily. But they do create extra work and time in an already busy day!

So I ask you to pray for me. These past few months have been difficult ones, with pressures and tensions running high in our department because of the needed database program change. Pray that God will give me wisdom and understanding as I work at implementing the required changes. Pray that the work can be accomplished in a timely fashion. Pray that I will be an encouragement to my teammates as we work side by side. Pray for good health and good sleep. And pray that in all that I do and say, the glory will go to the Father.

My spirit is lifted knowing that you are praying for me. Thank you so much! May His name be praised!

In His grip,

Sylvia Lambert

From the President...

As we all know and experience almost every day—the world is changing. These changes come with both challenges and opportunities. One area of significant change relates to the many new ways in which people are communicating these days.

A specific application of this change to the world of missions relates to the missionary prayer letter. In the post-World War II time frame when OC was birthed, international mail was slow and communication from missionaries to their ministry partners took place primarily through personal letters. With the advent of copiers and lower-cost printing, missionary communication moved to the prayer letter format, which allowed the missionary to keep his or her support team up-to-date on the latest ministry needs, stories, and impact.

Technology has now presented us with a whole new selection of communication options, ranging from e-mail to Twitter and everything in between. This has had two major impacts. The reduced use of surface mail has caused the U.S. Postal Service to increase rates to cover costs. This in turn has more than tripled the cost of mailing prayer letters over the last 20 years, despite the reduction in the cost of producing the letters.

We at OC are committed to exercising the very best stewardship possible in our use of the contributions we receive in support of our missionaries. One of the ways we have worked to do this is through the implementation over the last three years of electronic prayer letters. Sending a prayer letter electronically drops the cost to about 10 cents per prayer letter from the current cost of nearly 80 cents to mail a printed prayer letter. Many of you are already receiving letters in this new format.

This month we would like to give each of you the option of receiving your missionary's prayer letter by e-mail. If you would like to do this, simply complete the tear-off response sheet below and list the e-mail address or addresses for different family members (it is hard to pass the computer around!), and we will do the rest to get you set up to receive your missionary's prayer letter via e-mail.

If paper copies best fit your lifestyle or the way you use the prayer letter (like putting it in your Bible), we are happy to continue sending them to you in this current way. If so, there is nothing you need to do and you will continue to receive the printed letter each month.

Thank you for your partnership with your OC missionary.



*Greg Gripenrog
OC President*

Did You Know?

Sending a prayer letter electronically drops the cost to about 10 cents per prayer letter from nearly 80 cents to mail a printed prayer letter.

Our Vision

Healthy churches working together to disciple all nations.