



**OC** One Challenge.  
Reaching the world together.

## From Your Missionary ...

154

### To the ends of the earth

- Please pray for our meetings, May 20-24, that God will give us unity and common purpose as we discover how to work together as a flattened, internationalized mission organization!
- Thank you for your support that has allowed us to mobilize missionaries from Latin America and the USA! We cannot express how grateful we are to have you standing beside us. In the last two months a few of our longtime friends and monthly supporters have needed to decrease or discontinue their support due to the challenging financial crisis. Currently, we have a need of an additional \$800 a month. If God leads you, would you consider increasing your monthly giving to help meet this need? Your prayerful consideration of this request is much appreciated.
- Please pray for our summer missionary training and member care programs happening here in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. In June, we are expecting about a dozen missionary candidates and interns for our 4½-week "Lifeworkx" missionary training program. Also, in July, we are anticipating 15 OC missionary families from all over the world for our Personnel Enrichment Program.



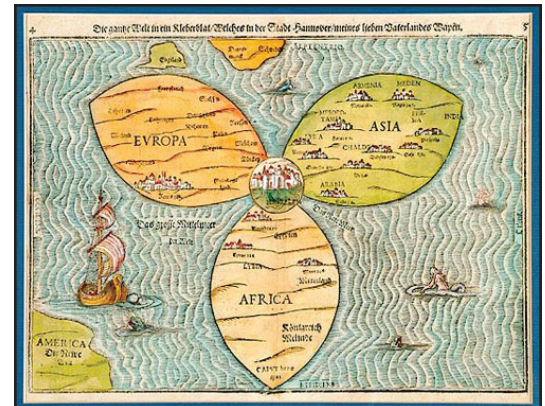
When I taught the course "Missions in the Book of Acts" to missionary candidates in Guatemala, I would always start by taking a fresh look at the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8:

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;*

*and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

I would always ask my Guatemalan students, "What geographical location was Jesus referring to when he used the phrase *"the ends of the earth"*?"

Before they could answer, I would shout, YOU are the ends of the earth! It's true, whether you live in Guatemala City, Manila, Philippines, or even Grass Valley, California; from the perspective of those living in Jerusalem, all the rest of us are living in the ends of the earth! The gospel truly has been preached to the ends of the earth, if we have had the opportunity to hear it.



*Old map with Jerusalem as the center of the world.*

Yet, the task is not finished. I am flying to Manila on May 16 to meet with OC missions leaders from over 15 countries. Together, we want to reach the world and see Jesus' gospel message reach those who haven't heard. It's the same Acts 1:8 challenge that Jesus gave to his disciples in Jerusalem, yet instead of primarily a Jewish audience hearing it, Jesus' Great Commission to be his witnesses is now being obeyed by his people from Brazil, Canada, Singapore, India, and the Philippines, just to name a few.

To the Ends of the Earth!

# From the Vice President...

## Blessings amid the challenges

Each day we all in some way face the economic realities which surround us. For some it involves prayers for a friend or family member who lost a job, while for others it may be the direct impact of financial pain. As a mission, we too are feeling the impact all around us. This month I would like to update you on how we have experienced these last few months.

The best way to describe our experience is that of blessing in the middle of challenges. Our cash situation has reached extremely tight levels. Our finance director, with her staff, has to manage cash daily. Yet, God is good and we have made all our payments to date! This is only because of the good hand of God who has blessed us with income levels equal to last year. This is an amazing gift as we look at sister missions and their extremely difficult situations.

I have recently been studying the book of 2 Corinthians. In chapters 8 and 9, Paul talks about giving. He says that he is sending Titus ahead that they might be able to give in a time of freedom without feeling any compulsion. As I reflected on these chapters, like Paul my heart's desire is that you experience great joy in giving.

As was shared last month, God has set more ministry opportunities before us than ever before in the history of the mission. These come in the context of economic challenges in every country in OC's world. We know that God desires that we be wise stewards, but also act in faith in responding to the incredible needs around the world.

We are not sure what the months ahead will bring. Frequently the summer months are months of reduced giving. We do know that the place that we have seen the biggest drop-off is that of undesignated giving that helps us provide the much-needed support services to our field missionaries. I invite you to pray and let the Lord speak to your heart. If he would lead you to give a special gift, just indicate "where most needed" and we will prayerfully use it to meet our most critical needs.

I close by thanking you for your prayers and generous support. As we have experienced God's blessing on our income, we know it comes through your faithful response to him. May God return the blessing to you manyfold.



Ray Sanford  
Executive Vice President

## Did You Know?

If God leads you to give a special gift, just indicate "where most needed" and we will prayerfully use it to meet our most critical needs.

Our Vision  
Healthy churches  
working together to  
disciple all  
nations.



**OC** One Challenge.  
Reaching the world together.

OC International  
P.O. Box 36900  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936  
800.676.7837

[www.ONECHALLENGE.org](http://www.ONECHALLENGE.org)