

February 17, 2010

Dear friends,

My, how time passes. Can't believe it is February already.

Wanted to give you an update.

My life has been primarily governed by the fact that our new mission president (David) is at a point now where he wants to start making decisions concerning how he wants to run our organization. I have been playing a major supporting role in that.

Lately, I have been in charge of a task force which is making recommendations for an upper level curriculum/education/training committee that oversees anything relating to our teaching. Since teaching is the core of our ministry, this committee is critical. This has involved several conversations with groups all over the world to get a feel for all the issues that everyone feels are critical.

This trait of getting a lot of input from staff is typical of our new president. This is very encouraging to me, not only because it uses my experience and training, but also because I believe that we make better decisions as an organization when we tap the wisdom of our very experienced staff.

Other ongoing discussions that we are having are a) what the new leadership team of the organization should be and how should it work, b) what is our philosophical approach to expanding into places like India and China and the Middle East, c) and generally what are the issues that are facing the organization.

In the meantime, I am still the liaison person between our U.S./European Entrust ministry and our African branch. The past two weeks has seen a significant development: our African partners are experiencing some need for re-evaluation and have asked us to help them in this process. This has meant several Skype calls with our director in Mozambique. We have not had this kind of close connection with our African team before, so we are encouraged that they are wanting to have a closer relationship with us. It is also giving us better information on what works and what isn't working in our African ministry. This is important to our understanding about how we want to work in other countries like in India.

In the last couple of months, the board and David has shown much more interest in India. As a result, there is serious discussions going on with who on our staff can help me with the India work. It appears that two to three more couples may be assigned to help me out in India. In the meantime, I finally have some go ahead to pursue this ministry more aggressively.

So, when am I traveling again?

Early in January, David and I decided that we had too many important and critical conversations going on and since we both had been gone most all of the Fall, we knew we needed to take time to talk. Therefore we put off our Africa trip for February and will go in April or May. I also will be setting something up for a trip to India also in that same period of time. In the meantime, the Cameroon team is also trying to figure out a time to go back this year. Throwing in some personal events in the family and such, trying to schedule all of this is now becoming problematic.

So would you pray for the following needs:

1. Good discussions for all the different issues that the president has us looking at.
2. Our African ministry as they seek to analyze their current standing and how to improve. They are also facing major financial crisis to the point that they are not able to meet salary demands.
3. Conversations with our contacts in India to get things rolling.
4. Scheduling for trips to Africa and India.
5. My stomach is acting up again. Frustrating.

Thanks again for all your prayers and support. This is a crucial time for us and we need God's wisdom and guidance.

Blessings to you, my friends.

Alan