

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and financial support. Your partnership is essential for our ministry and effectiveness. I remember when Robyn and I first went out to the mission field back in 1977 and WPM (World Presbyterian Missions) would not allow us to leave until 10 people committed to pray for us on a DAILY basis. Most of these prayer warriors have gone to be with the Lord - among them were Dr. John Sanderson and his wife Pearl. They were faithful because the questions they asked about our ministry were very specific about names and events, and they needed regular updated prayer material, just as you need for us to keep you updated in specific ways.

**Report on trip to Villahermosa, MX.**



Due to technical difficulties, some of you didn't get the E-mail I sent out about this trip. I went to Villahermosa, Mexico from the 4th to the 9th of August to teach my course on Introduction to Pastoral Psychology to a select group of 15 people who would then take the course and teach it to others in MINTS (Miami International Seminary see: <http://mints.edu/>) centers. I enjoyed the challenge of dealing with great questions and comments from highly prepared men and women, such as the director and two other professors of this Presbyterian Seminary, two Christian psychologists, and a lawyer. They responded very favorably to my teaching (thank you for your prayers in this regard). The issue of the integration of our faith, our faithfulness to the Scriptures and the claims of science and psychology was foremost. There is a great amount of dualistic thinking in the evangelical church in Mexico, as in most of Latin

America. As the course progressed, I noticed a growing excitement in the class as we reflected on God's redemptive work in all areas of life, and as we saw Christ's Lordship and preeminence even in areas where atheists, despite their blinded hearts, have described some of God's works.

I was asked to preach in the graduation of students who received a degree in ministerial music and enjoyed the fellowship dinner at the church as well as the sights of chocolate trees (the "food of the gods" <http://mgonline.com/chocolate.html>) along the way. Another special treat was that of a trip to the ruins of Palenque (see: <http://www.sacredsites.com/americas/mexico/palenque.html>, and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palenque>), the second most important Mayan ruins. As we looked at the temple pyramids all I could think about were the gruesome scenes of the decapitated human sacrifices in Mel Gibson's movie Apocalypto (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0472043/>).!! What an encouragement it is to know that the gospel of Christ's sacrifice that has taken all of God's anger towards us, is spreading strongly through the present church in Mexico. There are more than a million Presbyterians alone, without counting the other denominations!!

I have been invited to return over the next couple years to teach four more courses in the area of pastoral psychology. The next course (Counseling in Crisis Situations), is already scheduled for Nov. 12-14. As I teach these courses I will be giving them orientation and tools to deal with the difficult family brokenness that they face in their church planting and pastorates. It is rewarding to be involved in such a multiplying ministry - teaching and training the teachers and trainers (2 Tim. 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others") This effect is clearly seen in the following testimony:

**Student testimony:**

Edilberto Ramirez, a pastor from Bogotá, Colombia wrote me the following E-mail June 16, 2007:  
*Appreciated professor, even though I have not finished all the course requirements for FLET, (due to the fact that my income does not allow me to prepare myself formally), I have had the opportunity to teach the principles learned in your course to the congregation I now serve as pastor. Three months ago I began a study group with approximately 10 people where we have studied the course: How to Counsel in Crisis Situations. The acceptance of these teachings has been very good and so I decided to start two other study groups, one of them in another congregation, and at the end of this week I will start another group. The total is now 60 people. The study of this material has been of great blessing, first in my life and also in the lives of the brothers and sisters in the groups. I am not a professional psychologist I have been counseling in my congregation for over 10 years, and with these studies I have been able to organize my practice more effectively. Thank you for your work and dedication to help the Christian people.*

**NEED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Your prayers and financial support have made it possible for us to be on the mission field for 30 years now. We appreciate deeply your commitment to the Lord and your partnership with us in our mission outreach to Latin American - most of that time in Chile and now to many others in the Spanish speaking world. For this we are very grateful and thank you deeply for your faithfulness. As you know, I have not "squeaked" about our support needs for many years now. Some of you have made this possible by incrementing your support by a small percentage regularly, some yearly. Yet due to the fact that some of our supporting churches have gone through crisis, and some supporters have gone to be with the Lord, our pledged and committed support level has dropped by **\$1,200 dollars per month**. If this trend continues, our ministry will suffer. So knowing that in support raising, often it is "the squeaky wheel that gets the grease," I am pronouncing my first squeak!! Many of you have kept your support level to us the same for decades and some have given less. If all our support team would consider a percentage of increase this problem would be resolved. Or maybe some of you who receive this letter can consider joining our support team for the first time. God has been faithful to us through you, and whatever you decide, please know that we appreciate your partnership through your prayers and encouragement. Please use the following coupon:

**Update on family illnesses:**

1. Thank you very much for your prayers regarding Robyn's father **Bob Lutz**. As I mentioned before, he suffered a stroke at the beginning of the month. He is back home at the Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community now and has steadily been recuperating his speech abilities and arm movement.
2. I am also very happy to report that **Robyn** has not had any trouble with her eye since last year. The last visit a few months ago showed that the artery caught on the torn part of the retina had dislodged, making it less likely to bleed.
3. After the last visit to the hand specialist, the Dr. recommended that **Daniel** have a corrective surgery on his right elbow. The bone separated after the first surgery. This has been very disappointing to all of us. He apparently, though, can wait to get this second surgery after this year's soccer season. Daniel is a senior this year, and he is now also in the process of deciding what he wants to study and what University to go to.

Thanks again for your faithful financial and prayer support in our ministry.

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I would like to record my commitment to MTW and Richard and Robyn Crane (#011125) by:

\_\_\_ Praying faithfully for them \_\_\_ daily \_\_\_ weekly  
 \_\_\_ Contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to their support: \_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_ annually  
 \_\_\_ Enclosed is a one-time gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Mission to the World, P.O.Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284 (donations address)  
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