

Trusting God! Waiting patiently!

But these things I plan for you won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day! *Habakkuk 2:3 LB*

Therefore the LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. Happy are all who wait patiently for Him. *Isaiah 30:18 HCSB*

Many times over the past three years since we responded to God's call to serve as missionaries with OC International, Deanne has used a word picture of a leaf floating in a river to describe our transition. A leaf doesn't decide where it goes; it simply follows the flow of the river. We are seeking to flow wherever God chooses to lead us.

2008: Year of Transition. The Lord led us to a new home, a new church family, new schools for Doug and Maddie, a new ballet program for Madeline, new friends, and new ministry opportunities. It's been hard at times—but it's been a good transition!

2009: Year of Provision. We are so grateful for the Lord's provision through our financial partners! By the time you receive this letter, we are trusting that our full monthly support is provided. However, we do have a deficit from last year. Will you pray with us and trust God to provide these funds?



Ministry updates

The Promise Church is birthed!

January 11, 2009 – After a year of preparation, The Promise Church held their grand opening at Emerson Elementary School in Riverside, California. I had been coaching Pastor Roy Shinn for the previous six months as he developed his launch team and began implementing their outreach strategy. You can discover more at www.thepromisechurch.cc.

Keystone training

February 9-13, 2009 – In partnership with the Missionary Church, I helped to coordinate a week-long training here in Seattle for church planters and leaders focused on disciple making. I enjoyed coaching participants to effectively implement these principles after the training was completed.

Coaching skills certification

March 9-13, 2009 – My passion for coaching continues to grow. I will be developing my core coaching competencies this month (along with my teammate Bob Rasmussen). The training is provided by CRM (Steve Ogne and Keith Webb) and is held at Crossroads Bible Church in Bellevue.

Church planting movements workshop

March 15-20, 2009 – Together with OC missionaries from around the world, I will be gathering for a weeklong workshop in Colorado Springs. David Watson, a global expert in this field, will be guiding us through 20 hours of interactive learning activities. I am really looking forward to this!

CMTC – church planter training

March 30-April 2 & June 8-11, 2009 – The Church Multiplication Training Center has trained hundreds and hundreds of church planters across the country in a three-day event called a BootCamp. This approach has been utilized by over 100 denominations and reproduced by many and even translated into Spanish and Korean. I am thrilled to contribute in New York City and Seattle. For more information – www.cmtcmultiply.org.



From the President...

During these challenging times, we can be encouraged that God is not limited by an economic downturn. He is moving forward in his mission of love to our world! Today Christianity has become a global faith with Christians present in every country of the world. The diversity and spread of evangelical Christianity is breathtaking.



Greg Gripenrog
OC President

The World's Evangelicals



Graph source: Jason Mandryk,
State of the Gospel 2009
– Mission Exchange Webinar

The most exciting growth is occurring in the majority (non-Western) world. As the graph depicts, 74 percent of evangelicals today live outside of North America and Europe. They worship Jesus in literally thousands of languages and live for him within a rich mosaic of cultures.

Parallel to this growth has been the emergence of the majority world as a global missions sending force. Today there are more missionaries sent out from Asia, Latin America, and Africa than from North America and Europe combined.

This is good news! Majority-world missionaries are taking the gospel into very difficult places and communicating Jesus through the colorful prism of their cultures. Though often lacking finances, they are passionate, tenacious, and resourceful in their ministries. The witness of the church worldwide has never been more dynamic.

Over the years, OC International has been working to encourage and strengthen these movements. Our missionaries have played an instrumental role in the emergence of COMIBAM, a Latin American missions network representing 12,000 missionaries and 23 national mission movements.

The Lord has also enabled OC to play a significant role in the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI), a network of national initiatives focused on mobilizing thousands of African churches for the Great Commission.

Today it is estimated that 3,000 Filipinos are being sent out as full-time missionaries, with an additional 100,000 Christian Filipino workers living out their faith through their jobs in restricted-access nations. OC Philippines has helped to facilitate this surge in missions sending and coached the formation of the Philippine Mission Association.

With trust built through years of service, OC is now helping to build bridges between majority-world mission movements. Two months ago, OC facilitated strategic discussions between the leaders of COMIBAM and MANI on the island of Malta. Both continental movements agreed to learn from each other and explored practical ways to cooperate in reaching least-evangelized peoples. As a next step, they've invited leaders from North Africa into the discussion. It is expected that exciting new forms of mission will take shape as a result.

Missions today is *from the whole world to the whole world*. OC has a strategic role to play in creating synergy between movements, encouraging key leaders, and creating space for innovation in ministry.

None of this would be possible without your partnership. Thank you for working with us to fan the flames of global mission!

Our Vision

Healthy churches
working
together to
disciple all
nations.



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