

January 7, 2016

Dear Friends:

Once again our first letter of the new year looks back at the previous year. As we have come to expect and previous years have proven true, 2015 was uniquely different from other years. The one constant in these 13 ½ years of our God adventure through Malachi Ministries International has been our commitment to proclaim the gospel of grace and its application in life and relationships. We are blessed with new friendships that continue to come our way and with the growing depth of existing ones. It is in and through these relationships that ministry opportunities open outside the US and at home. Our Father very graciously allows us to receive so much through these friendships. Paul writes that he “long[s] to see you, ...that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith...” (Romans 1:11) We feel the same.

Christmas with the Cabrera Family

Usually we review the year in chronological order, but this year ‘the last shall be first,’ not because it was the most significant or important part of our year, but because it is defined by relationship, one that still resonates in our hearts.

In 1994 Hector Zetino made arrangements with Amilcar and Rudi Cabrera to provide meals for me while I was doing a conference at a church in Guatemala City. Their oldest daughter, Ammi, was 2 years old at the time. After hours of reading books and playing ‘soccer’ with her in the house, she dubbed me ‘grandpa.’ During that time Amilcar and Rudi shared their vision of mobilizing Guatemalan churches to send and support missionaries to unreached nations.

That began a relationship that eventually evolved into us being family to one another. Their second daughter has known Emilie and I as ‘grandma and grandpa’ all her life. Ammi and Ellie have become ‘cousins’ to our grandchildren through multiple Cabrera family visits with us here in Arkansas. Our granddaughter, Amanda, has developed an especially close relationship with Ammi and Ellie. She was with us for both Ammi and Ellie’s high school graduations in Guatemala City.

For more than 20 years Amilcar worked to mobilize Guatemalan churches to send and support missionaries and was highly successful because he worked with integrity through relationships. He and his family immigrated to the US in August 2013 and are now living in Oakmont, PA. His area of influence for mobilizing the church to send missionaries to unreached nations has only been enlarged. Our place in what God has done through Amilcar and Rudi has primarily been to love them, to affirm and encourage them and their vision.

This past July when I was with Amilcar in Israel, he told me his family was coming to my house for Christmas. Why could he do that? They are family. Ellie arrived on December 19th, coming immediately after her semester finals at King's College (Pennsylvania). The others arrived on Christmas Eve and were with us to see in the New Year. What a blessing!!!

Cuba and Ecuador

After numerous attempts to coordinate the individual schedules of team members (Michael Brymer, Amilcar Cabrera, Chad Lindvall and me), we set June 2nd to 10th as dates for our trip to Cuba. Schedules were in place for our time in 'target city' and our hosts were excited about our coming. But our travel arrangements were complicated by the new requirements for Cuban travel. The effort to make travel to Cuba more available for 'religious purposes' left us with a number of unanswered questions and we decided to abort the trip.

Our primary Cuban contact, Dr. José (alias), is a highly respected surgical sub-specialist in the medical community of Cuba. He is currently starting the second of a two year contract to practice in Machala, Ecuador with the permission and encouragement of the Cuban government. I used the time we would have been in Cuba for an 8 day visit with Dr. José (alias) in Machala. It was a God-ordained time made even more special by José's wife, Aylia (alias). Although I knew she had come from Cuba for a visit, I assumed she would have left before I arrived. Over the 5 nights and 4 days I was in Machala we had many intense conversations that often lasted until the early morning hours. Much of the time we were joined by another Cuban doctor also from 'Target City.' Prayer times were prophetic, powerful and intimate.

Our plan is to reschedule a team for Cuba in the spring of this year.

Israel

One of Amilcar Cabrera's current mobilization projects is the placement of Hispanic interns with Spanish speaking pastors in Israel. In late July I joined him for an 8 day Israeli tour. The 'officially licensed' tour guide for our team of 8 was a completed Jew who had immigrated to Israel from Argentina 14 years ago. Eduardo is actively involved in ministry to both Spanish and Hebrew speakers. He is also Amilcar's Israeli partner in the mobilization of Latin American workers for Israel. All of this provided a most interesting multi-faceted experience in Israel.

Our travels took us to most of the traditional sites usually included in tours of Israel. However, our purpose as we traveled was strategic intercession. Spontaneous individual intercession was encouraged, but in a number of locations we spent considerable time in corporate intercession. Not only were we able to spend time ministering with and encouraging Spanish speaking pastors, but we

also encountered Spanish speakers everywhere we traveled. Eduardo's tour presentations were in Spanish with Amilcar providing translation for team members that only spoke English. There were times that I felt I was back in Mexico or Guatemala.

East Africa

In late July and early August I made a 16 day trip to Rwanda in East Africa with Mike Bernadsky (Total Healing Ministries) to help teach pastor and church leader conferences. This was my 5th trip to East Africa with Mike. This time we had two conferences in rural Rwanda, the first in Kirehe District of the Eastern Province with over 300 in attendance representing at least 20 different denominations. The second was in the Gatisbo District of the Eastern Province where we had over 400 in attendance representing 20 to 25 different denominations. Although we did not have a conference in Kigali, we enjoyed a more informal fellowship with a number of the key pastors of the Union of Churches of the Kicukiro District.

Then we traveled to Kisii, Kenya to hold the first inter-denominational conference held in Kisii since Kenya became an independent nation in 1964. At least 30 different denominations were represented in the 325 that attended. Since then, the pastor who invited us has suffered a couple of major tragedies that has caused our hearts to break for him. We just recently heard from him again that although some of the effects of that remain, he is doing better.

Our teaching always centers on an outworking of the gospel of grace in relationships with a strong focus on marriage and families. The reception of our teachings is very encouraging. However, one benefit of these conferences goes far beyond the teaching. It brings together pastors from diverse denominational backgrounds and has resulted in the formation of relationships and a greater cooperation among the pastors in the work of the kingdom in their districts.

Hope for Orphans Cambodia (HFOC)

2015 saw the completion of the 10th year of our orphan sponsorship for the children at HFOC. We have seen many improvements in the HFOC campus over that time and our relationship with Pastor Im Chron, his wife Miev Saylan, their daughter, Dr. Im Suthearum, and her husband, Dr. Mam Vithearth, has become increasingly more precious with time. Your support for the children at HFOC has increased each year. Thank you. This year we also launched a new effort to help provide funds for higher education, a much needed element as the children have become older. Your initial support of that effort has been encouraging. Included with this letter is an HFOC Commitment form for any who may like to begin support of an orphan or any who would like to make a contribution to the Education Fund, a truly critical need.

Other

This past year has certainly held its share of difficulties, disappointments, and struggles; but we turn our eyes to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith and look forward to what is ahead – for our family and for the ministry God has given us. May God fill us each and all with the knowledge of his will through spiritual wisdom and understanding, that we may live lives worthy of him, pleasing him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all power according to his glorious might that we may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Thank you, friends, for walking with us in many different ways. Thank you for financial support. Thank you for praying. Thank you for encouragement, for words of wisdom, for loving us warts and all. Our hearts are full. We praise God for each and everyone. May the blessing of His presence fill you with the knowledge of his love, bring you his peace, and empower you for whatever comes your way in the coming year.

Grace and peace,
Jim and Emilie



Our Family



2015



Ecuador / Cuba

Israel



East Africa: Rwanda & Kenya

Commitment Form

Yes! I purpose to commit to

- Sponsorship of One Child \$35/month
 Sponsorship of Two Children \$70/month
 Sponsorship of Three Children \$105/month
 Sponsorship of ____ @ \$35 each = \$_____
 Education _____
 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please drop this form in the mail today and we will assign a child to you immediately. We will forward a sponsorship packet that will include a photo and a biographical summary of your child.

One-time special offerings to the orphanage, can be remitted to the address below. Checks should be made payable to Malachi Ministries International, Inc, and designated for Hope for Orphans Cambodia.

Hope for Orphans Cambodia

Malachi Ministries International, Inc.

19 Pennwood Dr

Sherwood, AR 72120

A mission program sponsored by



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