

July 2006

Dear Friend,

The cliché “Time flies when you are having fun” rings true with us. Last month Carol and I celebrated 22 years in Mexico. Time has gone by quickly. God has allowed us to influence people's lives through evangelism, personal discipleship, church and leadership development, mentoring relationships, and Christian Education; all within the context of the three churches we have been privileged to serve.

Although the message never changed, the context and how it was presented had to be adjusted to the culture in which we were living. What a growing and learning experience it has been! One of the first adjustments for us was learning that unlike the United States where time is the driving force in Latin America people are important. And truly, that is how it should be. Jesus lived by that principle in all that he did. Caring for those we have served and for our fellow missionaries has been a great joy.

Carol and I find ourselves at a new beginning. Dr. Paul Jackson, the president of EBM, has asked me to assume the position of Vice-President of Personnel. Having received the affirmation of our home church, we have accepted this new challenge. This will begin in the spring of 2007.

We bring two foundational beliefs from our missionary experience to this new ministry. First, we desire to see fully trained and prepared EBM missionaries effectively taking a changeless message to a rapidly changing world. The ability to present Biblical truth in a culturally relevant way is essential in this day and age. Those who take on this God-called challenge must truly be world-view Christians.

Our other passion will be to make sure that those already serving are being well cared for. There are too many missionaries intent on long-term service who return after one term or less. I want to be used of God to reverse that trend; providing missionaries with continuing encouragement and ministry resources so that they remain fresh, visionary, and excited about global ministry.

The following are some of our responsibilities:

- We will assist local churches to help challenge and develop their own people in preparation for mission service.
- We will present a vision for new and veteran missionary training and a process of evaluation in order to produce world-view missionaries.
- We will enable our missionaries already serving to regularly sharpen their skills and knowledge through continuing education programs.

- We will establish regular times for missionaries to come together for encouragement, training, and planning.
- We will organize global summits between missionaries and national leaders to better coordinate efforts and realize true indigenous strategies.
- We will work with churches that send missionaries in partnership with EBM to provide a caring, supportive environment that will foster long-term service commitments.

Carol's and my vision is that our missionary personnel will be the best cared for, prepared, and skilled servants. We further believe that their efforts will have the greatest results in getting the message of Christ's redeeming love to those who need to hear.

We are excited and yet humbled by the ministry opportunity that God has given us. As one of our Partners in Mission, we are also excited that your investment in us will now have an impact, not only in Mexico, but in world-wide missions. Even though we will be in the US, we still depend on your financial support of our ministry. I would ask that you continue to be one of our Partners in Mission. I look forward to our continued relationship as Partners in Mission goes global.

I plan to talk with you personally during the month of August. However, if you would like to call me, you may reach me at 937-558-5720 (VoIP phone) until August 26. If you desire to meet with me personally, I will be happy to do so during the month of August while we are in the U. S.

Together as Partners in Mission,
Rick Hudson