

WORLD REACH

MISSIONS NEWS from BRUCE & NANCY PETERS

April, 2010

Dear Family and Friends ~

A modern-day ballad, with catchy rhythm and haunting lyrics, carries the line: “LIFE GETS MIGHTY PRECIOUS WHEN THERE IS LESS OF IT TO WASTE!” Only a fool would squander life, but I confess that as a young man life looked like a long road with mid-life a peak way off in the distance. But by the time my family could rightly put forty candles on the birthday cake, mortality and priorities became traveling companions that quickened life’s pace and sharpened its choices. Now, in my sixth decade, I feel like the Apostle Paul’s proverbial runner – still in the race, determined to finish and finish well, but also more quick to shed anything that slows me down!

Since my last letter, with the opening months of 2010 quickly passing, my new missionary-life has unfolded with great challenge and strong confirmation: “*I AM A MISSIONARY!*” The Lord reminds me in so many creative ways. For example, during WORLD REACH orientation there were guidebooks to read and documents to sign. When I signed a paper acknowledging that my work could send me into harm’s way, I knew *I am a missionary!* And when both Nancy and I signed an agreement giving further acknowledgment that if I was kidnapped it is the Mission’s policy never to pay ransom...I thought with amazement, “WOW! *I am a missionary!*”

One of my job assignments includes writing, which is a God-given gift and vocation that is precious to me. Presently, I am writing an article that is to be produced as a brochure or for on-line promotion through WORLD REACH’s website and facebook page. My task is telling stories from the mission fields that illustrate the FIVE (5) CORE VALUES of WORLD REACH: Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Planting, Leadership Development and Humanitarian Aid. These values, reproducing the acts of the early church, are practical steps that define the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). The core values of this Mission are venues for a fulfilling life...once more reminding me *I am a missionary.*

On my first overseas teaching assignment last February at WORLD REACH’s Mobile Bible Institute in Bogota, Colombia, meeting and serving with missionaries and national pastors and church leaders, I found a sense of fulfillment that rivaled the day I became a husband and years later a father. Till I stand before Jesus, the precious Colombian people – like a first love – will be forever etched on my heart. Every time I addressed the class, so full of a heaven-sent love for these people, my eyes would become tear-filled and my voice quiver with emotion. The night of my farewell challenge to the class, I once more choked with emotion, to my embarrassment. Tito, one of the pastors and spokesman for the others, responded kindly with words of love, spoken almost as a confessional. He said (something like), “In our country, men so prize being *macho* that we hold back our emotions, but your tears have spoken to us.” Affirmed by this dear brother and his classmates, once more I knew...*I am a missionary.*


Before returning to the USA, I preached on my last Sunday in Bogota in a church pastored by one of the Bible Institute students. As I stood by the door greeting folks farewell as they passed by after the service, one of the men from the congregation came up to me. Earlier during the hymn-singing and communion part of the service, I had sat right behind this young husband and father, a man of modest means who put a generous gift of folded cash into the offering basket. As this brother in the Lord came up to me, he relied on a translator to convey his parting message to me: "I know that I never met you before today and that I probably will not see you again until Heaven, but I want you to know that God has given me a love for you." This man's words conveyed my own feelings too – about him, his country, our Lord...and my call. Humbled and affirmed once more, I knew that indeed God called me and that *I am a missionary*.

When you see a shiny new missionary prayer card and your name and photo stare back at you...well, it is one more blessed reminder that indeed *I am a missionary!* Nancy and I humbly ask you to receive our enclosed prayer card as an expression of thanks for your prayers and investment in our lives. We still need PARTNERS who will help us to go and fulfill this "fourth-quarter" life assignment. Our financial support level is at about 10%. On every level of our spiritual existence, Nancy and I realize anew that our ministry task is not a solo assignment – we cherish you as our partners. Thanks also for introducing us to your church's pastors and missions committees. Because of your prayers and gifts, where I go...you go too! Praise the LORD!

Nancy joins me in this expression of Christian Love and Thanksgiving ~

Bruce R. Peters

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PRAYER REQUESTS	
	* Wisdom for ministry development and planning
	* Journey mercies for Bruce's travels – international and stateside
	* Direction and favor in developing partnerships with churches and individual believers
	* Wisdom and blessing for Nancy's ministry as a Christian school teacher
	* Summer visit with our daughter, Meredith, home from her missions ministry in Portugal as she prepares to return to Lisbon for a second year of teaching overseas