



Dear Friend,

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Thank you for the gift of your prayers throughout this year. This has been another transitional year for us as we settled into our assigned responsibilities at OC's International Mobilization Center (IMC).

One way to define transition is to cross a swinging bridge carrying a load. The swinging bridge in the photo is located near Xalbal. Xalbal was the site of the first Bible education program (PEB) that we were able to implement in Guatemala. The bridge in the photo is about a football field long. Invariably, some of the planks are broken – leaving open gaps to negotiate. Even though there are thick stranded guide wires to hold onto while crossing the bridge, the bridge still bounces and sways as someone crosses over it to the other side of the river.



Thank you for the encouragement that you have given to us as we continue to transition from a field assignment to a headquarters assignment. We have been very grateful for your continued prayers, for your friendship and for your financial help. When we left for Bolivia the end of August in 1978, we had no clue how we would be so wonderfully blessed in so many different ways over the next 26 years. You are the ones who have made it possible for us to experience all these blessings. You are the ones who make it possible for us to cross uncertain transitions to something else that has given us even greater blessings.

The transition to OC's IMC has opened up a whole new set (load) of responsibilities for both of us. Nancy has the responsibility of facilitating the interview process for new missionary candidates. She also has the responsibility as the trainer during the Introduction to OC sessions that are scheduled five times a year for the new missionary candidates.

My primary responsibility has been with short-term ministry personnel. OC has had a program called STEP since 1982. STEP was the acronym for Summer Term Evangelism Program. STEP now is the acronym for Summer Term "Experience Learning" Program. I also help to make it possible for someone who would like to have a cross-cultural ministry experience up to one year in another country to have this experience with an OC field missionary team.

A short-term cross-cultural ministry experience allows someone to answer a curiosity to see the sights, to smell the smells, and to hear the sounds of another country. It also fulfills an innate desire to evangelize, to disciple, and to do good works contextually in a second country. It gives opportunity to learn experientially about life survival and ministry outreaches of host country people. It is a chance to be integrated into and to have influence in the ongoing ministries of a field missionary team. It is a way to find out, while in another cultural set of norms or customs, how to function outside established life and spiritual comfort zones.

There are always uncertainties in change or in doing something different. Thank you again for helping us in so many ways as we continue the process of crossing a sometimes unsteady, swaying transition bridge into new ministry roles that are blessing us. God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ,