

Dear Friend,

A ministry that has been generated since 1982 from OC's International Mobilization Center here in Colorado Springs is called STEP. STEP was an acronym for "Summer Team Evangelism Program." Because of a desire of those inquiring to join STEP to use a summer team experience as a step in their "oozing-in" process to know what life living cross-culturally and being a missionary is all about, I have changed the acronym STEP to stand for "Summer Team Experiential Learning Program."

In 1976, we participated on a summer team that went to Colombia. During the years that we were in Bolivia and in Guatemala, we either led or were actively involved in a dozen summer teams. I am now on the other end of summer teams—where I now have the responsibility of putting together the two scheduled STEPs—Guatemala STEP 2005 and China STEP 2005. This is my second year of being responsible for facilitating the processing of each STEP inquiry, the logistics of each STEP, and the briefing and the debriefing of each STEP participant.

As I wrote in our last two prayer letters, those who participate in a short-term ministry/missionary team—such as those who become STEP participants—become catalysts for the triangulation of several different relationships. This month I would like to explain how a short-term participant can become a catalyst for the field team missionary community as they connect them with your church by:

- couriering specific prayer requests and financial needs to those who are wanting to know
- becoming an in-house resource in having been briefed on the host country field missionary team's ministry goals and objectives
- presenting a firsthand report of how a supported field team missionary unit is doing living cross-culturally

As they connect the field team missionary community with the host country church by:

- creating a greater name visibility and credibility through participating in specific spiritual and helps ministries
- giving purpose for entering areas and meeting church leaders that possibly would not happen otherwise
- serving as a cog to help the field team missionaries meet the expressed ministry and helps requests

As they connect the field team missionary community with the field team missionary's sending agency by:

- supporting personally through prayer and money the life and ministry contributions being made by a field team missionary unit
- communicating an "eyeball" verbal or written report of sensed or felt perceptions of how a field team missionary unit is doing
- responding to the agency's expressed concerns by actively pursuing financial help and by recruiting missionary candidates

We would like to thank you again for your kindness. If you would like to know a little more about us and about OC International, you can find that information at garyandnancy.org. We think our son did a very good job designing a website for us. Until next month—God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ,


