



Dear Friend,

A remote may mean something other than what is used to flip through channels on a TV. A remote may mean a site a distance away from a base location. Wooddale Church has used remotes a number of times over the past several years as one of their short-term team ministry outreaches. The ministry foci on the different remotes have been to help work on churches and to help build a cement block house for the church leader.

Each Wooddale Church remote team has had on it at least one guy from their short-term ministry team, several guys from different churches in communities that are located on the shores of Lake Atitlan, and a translator. I have translated at three remotes. One of the guys who I went with on my first remote is now in Bulgaria with his wife—as OCI missionaries. To get to this remote, we first had to travel to the Caribbean side of Guatemala. We then had to take a 30-minute launch ride on a river that took us almost to Honduras Bay. My second remote was on the Pacific side of Guatemala within just a few hundred yards of the Pacific Ocean.

The remote that I was on this year was located about 30 minutes from Quetzaltenango. Quetzaltenango is the second-largest city in Guatemala. One guy from Wooddale Church's short-term ministry team went on this remote along with seven guys from five different communities located on the shores of Lake Atitlan. Except for the two guys who came from two different communities who knew each other, they had not met before leaving for the remote site.



*The seven guys from Lake Atitlan communities.*



*Steve helping at this year's remote.*

This year's remote allowed me again to go to a place that I had never visited before, to meet church leaders who I would never have met, to see a camaraderie build between seven Guatemalans that would never have been built, to experience what living is like at an altitude that I had rarely spent any time in, and to return to Wooddale Church's short-term ministry team base at Lake Atitlan sensing that what Steve and the seven Guatemalans had done in helping to work on a church building had been a real help and a very real encouragement to a group of believers.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during the times that Nancy and I were recently back in Guatemala with short-term ministry teams. Your prayers and your gifts are greatly appreciated. You are having an impact and an influence on the lives of people in Guatemala through what you are doing for us. God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ,



## *We Care for Your Missionary*

Do you know any OC missionaries? I would guess that you not only *know* your OC missionaries but *care* about them as well. I want to assure you that we also care for your missionaries, young or old, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to help them succeed.

A few weeks ago, this commitment became very personal for me. To tell this story properly, I need to wear not just my President hat, but my husband and father hats as well. Here's what happened.

Word came to our Colorado office from our missionaries living in a 'restricted access country' that their children's school situation had not worked out as expected. The team kids needed help with schooling, but all the parents needed to focus on language-learning. When this news reached us we prayed fervently for these families.

During those days of prayer, God touched the heart of Diane Morris, our veteran missionary school teacher, with a deep concern for the parents and kids. When I heard of it, my instinctive response was, "When my wife Denyse hears of this, she'll want to go too." Sure enough, Denyse also felt led by God to help. We all prayed, and God confirmed that we needed to release them for this vital ministry. Frankly, it was an easy decision because of our life-long commitment to our missionaries—to *your* missionaries.

So off Diane and Denyse flew to another country for seven weeks, where they came alongside the missionary team in the dead of winter. They taught children and encouraged parents. The conditions were difficult, and I missed Denyse greatly for those long weeks that she was away. But it was a sacrifice we were glad to make.



*Denyse and Diane teaching missionary children.*

Would you like to see pictures of their trip and the children they taught? Please write or e-mail Deanne Boesel ([deanneboesel@oci.org](mailto:deanneboesel@oci.org)) or check out [www.oci.org/wecare.htm](http://www.oci.org/wecare.htm).

If God touched your heart through this story, perhaps you would consider helping us continue our ministries of care. Field visits and other resources require funds, and we could really use your support. We have set up a "Care for my Missionary" fund to receive your tax-deductible donations. Thanks for your partnership!

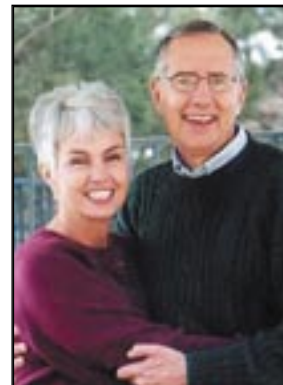
Just one other thing ... the kids in this story would be thrilled to have a regular teacher, and their moms and dads would love to focus on language and building relationships in their community. Would you pray with us that God would provide an elementary teacher who would go for a year and teach them?

Sharing your concern,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Gripenrog".

Greg Gripenrog

P.S. Don't forget! For donations, make checks payable to OC International, and indicate "Care for my Missionary" fund. Thank you!



*Greg and Denyse  
Gripenrog*