

Two years have already passed since Nancy and I began our transition to Colorado Springs and to OC's International Mobilization Center (IMC). Thank you again very much for your prayers that have helped enable our relocation to the U.S. Not long after we had agreed to OC's request to be assigned to the IMC, a new division called Resource Development was initiated. I was asked to join this new division.

When I was asked to join OC's IMC staff in Colorado Springs, I accepted the request with the expectation of contributing in several roles. The resignation of the Director of Mobilization to become the president of a sister mission agency – which was announced the day that we arrived, led to a cascading effect. One component of what I was expecting to do two years ago was to be a resource for who had the responsibility of OC's short-term ministry program, called STEP, and for each short-term ministry inquiry. When the Director of Mobilization resigned, he was replaced by the missionary staff person who had been responsible for anything relative to a short-term ministry. When that happened, I was asked to make my primary ministry responsibility overseeing all short-term ministry activities.

One of the desires for creating the Resource Development division was to make a more focused effort in finding ways to partner with churches that have been supportive of OC's ministry outreaches. Before joining OC a number of years ago, one of the men on OC's IMC staff had extensive experience ministering in several different church contexts. For the past several years, he has been the Director of Pre-Field Ministries. Because of OC's desire to do something that they have not yet been able to do, this staff missionary has been asked to begin to explore what kinds of partnering relationships supportive churches would like to have with OC.

Because of this pending reassignment, I have been asked to be the Director of Pre-Field Ministries. There are nearly 30 units at this time who are in various stages for field assignment. My responsibilities will involve tracking each one of these units – to insure that required paperwork has been submitted, to facilitate budgeting, to answer their questions, to follow up on their monthly reports, to encourage them, to visit them when practical, etc.

As the Coordinator of Candidate Ministries, Nancy's responsibilities includes putting together committees who at scheduled times, five times a year, review the information of the missionary applicants who have completed all of their paperwork. Six units had their paperwork reviewed in August. Five of these units were invited by OC to spend four days in Colorado Springs. These five units were interviewed last month face to face by the committee who reviewed their paperwork. After their official acceptance, the new candidate units then spend two and a half days being oriented to OC. Nancy teaches the majority of these two and a half days of orientation sessions. I will be involved in these sessions now as well – as my responsibility begins with each unit at this time.

Please pray for me as I transition into my new responsibilities. Nancy and I will again be ministering together – which is something that we very much are looking forward to doing. I will continue to be a consultant for the young lady who has been my administrative assistant as she processes applicants for STEP and for short-term ministry assignments. Nancy and I will continue to be involved in mentor roles. Early February next year, we are tentatively planning to go to Guatemala on a short-term medical/ministry team from Colorado Springs, and then we are tentatively planning again to go back to Guatemala in early April on a Holland, Michigan, short-term youth ministry team.

We would like to also ask for your prayers for our health. We are grateful for the increasing number of opportunities for ministry in a variety of contexts; we just know that our energy levels are being taxed. Our minimum support requirement continues to be a real concern. As Nancy asked in our last prayer/news letter, if you have the time and the desire to be an advocate for us – to first interact with us about our hopes, about our concerns, and about our needs and then to help pass on our needs to others – it would be a real blessing and an invaluable thing that you would do for us. Thank you again for wanting to partner with us. God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ,

