



Dear Friend,

STEP (Summer Team Evangelism Program) is the acronym for OC's summer teams. I was given the task here at OC's International Mobilization Center (IMC) of overseeing the putting together of a Guatemala STEP 2004 and of a China STEP 2004. In 1976, Nancy and I spent about seven weeks in Colombia on a summer team. Over the years, because of our time in Colombia being such an invaluable experiential learning time for us, we committed our time and energy into the lives of those who participated on summer teams in both Bolivia and in Guatemala.

On June 10, five young ladies are flying to Dallas. Nancy and I are planning to meet Carrie, Karen, Kate, Stephanie, and Jessica in Dallas – to spend two days with them in briefing them on what it may be like for them in Guatemala. Once in Guatemala, they will be joined for either some of the time or for most of the time by three interns – who I have had the responsibility of overseeing in their getting to Guatemala.

Please pray for those participating through Guatemala STEP 2004 and for those who are willing to invest their time and energy in the lives of the STEP participants. A summer team experience is a "being" time versus a "doing" time. It is a time for experiential learning through being in another country with its different cultural norms, through being involved in planned ministry activities, and through being in real-life situations where someone's faith is challenged and deepened.

On June 30, 13 of the China STEP 2004 participants will meet in San Francisco for a one-day briefing. A couple who is assigned to OC's IMC, who has had the experience of living in and of ministering in China, will brief those who are participating on China STEP 2004.

Please pray for China STEP 2004. Last year's STEP to China was cancelled because of the SARS outbreak. It would be disappointing to have that happen again this year. China STEP 2004 will be in China through the entire month of July. The STEP participants will spend two weeks of the time that they are in China at an orphanage and another week teaching English as a second language.

We are scheduled to be involved in this summer's OC PEP (Personal Enrichment Program) and OC's Internship activities. PEP begins July 5. It is a two-week debriefing time for OC's furloughing missionaries. Internship begins on June 14. Internship is a five-week "acquisitional" time for OC's new missionary candidates.

Nancy and I are looking forward to being with good friends again. Lisa was on the first summer team that we administrated in Bolivia. Lisa has been on the OC field missionary team in Brazil for well over 20 years. Barb was on the second summer team that we administrated in Bolivia. Barb returned to Bolivia to teach at the missionary kids school there. A year or so later, Doug and Barb were married. They have three children. They recently decided to join OC – to join a developing team that is going to the Recife area of Brazil. Lisa will be here for PEP, while Doug and Barb will be here for Internship.

Please continue to pray for Nancy and me. Our relocation here to the IMC has meant about a \$500 increase in the support requirement that we need to raise each month. Thank you for making this amount at this time a matter of prayer. Please pray also for our health – especially our energy level, as we prepare for a couple of very hectic months. Thank you. God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ,



1980 summer team to Bolivia. Barb, who is joining OC with her family, is the young lady on the far right. Our son is behind Barb. Our daughter is in front of Nancy. Jeff, standing to Nancy's left, returned to Bolivia as a missionary with his family. Fernando was a missionary in Bolivia until he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. Kneeling with Fernando is Lee, who has been a missionary in Ecuador with his family for well over 20 years. Lauren, to the right of Barb, has been a special friend, along with her husband, of OC missionaries for over 20 years.



Thanks to You, the Summer Won't Slump!

We in OC are humbled by God's generous provision through His people! Let me share one example.

Not long ago, OC missionaries Dave and Debbie Kornfield received an unexpected letter containing a \$500 check. Eileen, a member of one of the Kornfields' supporting churches, wrote, "Please accept this gift to help sustain your physical and travel needs. I was led to give it and must be obedient."

May I tell you why it was so important for Eileen to obey the Lord? Debbie is currently in the U.S. because their college-age daughter Karis needs an intestinal transplant. Over the years, they have incurred large medical and travel costs that have drained their bank account. So you can imagine their gratitude when they received the unexpected gift. Eileen is one of several friends who have blessed the Kornfields in this way. Others have donated air miles which have allowed Dave and daughter Valerie to visit from Brazil.



*Greg Gripentrog
OC President*



Debbie and Karis Kornfield

The story has another chapter. Debbie and Karis were summoned suddenly to Pittsburgh for Karis' transplant surgery, only to have the procedure postponed just after they arrived. They sat in the hospital room together, with all of their luggage, wondering where they would stay now that everything was delayed.

This time God raised up new partners, whom the Kornfields hadn't previously met, whose gift was that of hospitality. Battle and Carol opened their home for as long as the Kornfields need it while awaiting another organ and for the long recuperation time following the surgery. Not only that, Battle and Carol arranged for a special prayer time at their church that greatly encouraged Karis, and Battle frequently rides the bus to work to make his car available for their use.

On behalf of all our missionaries and staff, I want to thank you for every prayer, every gift of hospitality, every dollar, and every note of encouragement that you have given over the years. Your giving has glorified God.

During these summer months, financial support often lags behind. In fact, because of this recurring pattern, the season has been nicknamed "the summer slump." As many people travel during these months, they sometimes forget to send in their monetary support.

Accompanying this letter you will find an encouragement card which you can easily send to your OC missionary. May I request that you write a few words and send it to us in the enclosed envelope? Then we'll deliver it directly to the missionary you specify. As God enables you, please remember your missionary's support needs this summer.

Thanks for sharing in the fruit of our ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Greg Gripentrog'.

Greg Gripentrog