

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." ~ 2 Timothy 2:2

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Establishing and

Equipping Local

Churches through

National Pastors

Dear Partners & Friends,

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:" – Psalm 92:1

Brenda and I have much to be thankful for as we are once again approaching that Day of Thanksgiving. There are many things necessary for a missionary to go to a field and to stay on that field. As I reflect on our own preparation and short time on the field, I am so grateful for God's clear direction and the many people that God has brought to be part of our mission team.

LORD, we thank You for:

1. A definite and assured call from God. In times of difficulty, loneliness, discouragement, when deputation is taking longer than planned, when you get to the field and it is not what you expected (and it never is!); the devil will try to make you question your call. Knowing you are in God's will brings strength and comfort during those times.

2. A sending church that stays involved. I am so thankful for our sending church, Temple Baptist church, Sarasota, FL. They have gone beyond what we could have ever hoped for in prayers, financial support, encouragement, love, and meeting special needs.

3. A pastor who is involved and stays in touch. We could not ask for a better sending pastor, Gene Krachenfels! We have a great supporting church because we have a pastor who is mission minded and involved in missions. He prays for us and with us. He comes to help us on the field! He is always available for my calls for guidance and counseling. (And that is frequent!) He wants to know our *needs and does all he can to help with those needs. He is not only our pastor, he is our friend. His wife, Debbie, has been* a great prayer warrior for us and a dear friend to Brenda.

4. Partnering churches. It is clear that without the financial support of many churches we cannot get to the field. But it is much more than the money; it is many people in those churches who are sacrificing to give to missions. It is the many people who are praying for us. It is

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the cards, e-cards, care packages, special gifts, comments on Facebook, encouraging us in the work. . . churches who will send staff and members to help in the work. . . churches who will give and take special offerings to help with ministry needs and projects. They are not just supporting churches, but they are our partners in ministry. We are so thankful for all the partners we have!

5. The right mission agency. There are many good mission agencies. There is a right one for each missionary. World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions, our mission agency, goes beyond the call of duty. They are available 24/7 to help with any need we have. They are not just "the staff," they are our team, our friends, our support group, and our cheerleaders. They take care of all the "busy stuff" so we can focus on ministry. They do the research, the paperwork, the documents that get us in and keep us in countries. They pray for us, rejoice with us, hurt with us, and care for us. They support us, hold us up when we are weak, give us wise counsel when we are unsure. They not only stand beside us, they stand with us and before us. If we need them they will come! I have learned that being part of WWNTBM means that you are never alone. We are so very, very grateful!!!

6. Family and friends. We are so thankful for the support and encouragement we get from our family and friends. Many who have partnered with us financially and many more who support us in prayer and encouragement. Daily Facebook comments, chats, and video calls keep us connected, informed, and thankful for technology. We are overwhelmed by the love we are shown!

So, you can see, missions is a TEAM effort and involves many organizations and many people. We do not take any of them for granted and are humbled by the sacrifice of finances and time that are given so we can be faithful to our call of winning the lost, training national pastors, planting churches, training Sunday School workers, and preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Rick & Brenda Osborn