



January 2015

Dear Friends:

No one ever said it would be easy. Easy to follow in the footsteps of those great missionaries who have gone before us; men and women who blazed a trail for the Gospel through a world which had never heard the name of Jesus. Saints who sometimes walked in rags and rarely in riches; whose health and life depended on the mercy of God as they toiled in the midst of raging tropical diseases. People who gave up much with the desire that God would be pleased to use them to defeat spiritual darkness. “Hebrews 11” type people who were faltering and lonely; yet faithful to the calling God had placed in their lives. No, it is not easy. Perhaps it is doubly hard if some of the people you are trying to follow happen to be your own mother and father.



Ceci and I chose to follow Chuck and Jean in mission work in 1984. Initially we did not join in their vision at LATCOM, choosing instead to “get our feet wet” with a sister mission. Our direction changed radically in April 1995 when I was with dad in a doctor’s office in Pennsylvania. The physician looked us both in the eyes and with grave seriousness said, “Chuck, you have a very aggressive form of prostate cancer. You need to find an excellent oncologist...and soon!”

The doctor’s diagnosis fell like thunder. I don’t remember much of what was discussed after those life-altering words, but I recall my response an hour later as Dad and I talked about his future. I reminded my father that I had made a promise years earlier that if he were unable to lead LATCOM, then I would step in until the board could find someone else to carry on the vision. Tears welled up in Dad’s eyes as he gripped my hand across the table and said simply, “Thank you! God isn’t done with LATCOM yet. **There is so much yet to do!**”

Ceci and I joined LATCOM in 1996 and since 2000 we have served as leaders of the mission. During the past 14 years God has allowed us to begin many of the ministries that now anchor what LATCOM does throughout Latin America. In 2000 LATCOM began an outreach to the secular leaders of Latin America. Today that program reaches more than 9,000 leaders in over 16 Spanish-speaking countries. In 2004 we began Monte Blanco Camp which now hosts over 6,000 campers annually and has become one of the premier camps in South America. In 2008 we began the REDES program to spread the Gospel among the Chiquitano people. In 2014, after four long years of contextualizing indigenous leadership materials, we began a program for training tribal leaders in the Amazon and Rio de la Plata River basins. This program seeks to empower these men and women to handle power, politics, and money through a biblical worldview.

We have attempted to follow in my parents’ footprints in serving the Lord. It really has not been easy and therein lies the purpose of this letter.

As this year begins, LATCOM finds itself in dire financial need. Giving for 2014 was down considerably compared to 2013. We understand that some of this has to do with Chuck’s passing. Since Dad went to be with the Lord on Thanksgiving Day 2013, I have greatly felt the lack of his unbelievable ability to relate to

people and convince them to join in the work through praying, giving, and going. Yet...we refuse to give up! There are too many Spanish speaking people needing to hear the Gospel message.

LATCOM will make the necessary hard decisions on the U.S. end to try to keep ministries on the field functioning. If this means selling our office in the U.S. in order to trim costs, then we are willing to do that. However, before reaching such a drastic decision I first come to you, our faithful prayer warriors and financial supporters, **asking you to help.**

We must go on! This past year more than 1,900 young people made life-changing decisions at Monte Blanco, new outreaches were begun among the Chiquitano people, and thousands of secular leaders were trained in biblical principles of leadership. You have helped us do this. Thank you!



We rejoice in the things accomplished, but according to our business manager, total gifts to LATCOM for 2014 were \$88,000 **below** the projected budget, which prevented us from completing vital projects. We are asking you to prayerfully consider raising your monthly support to help cover this. This is because we believe Dad's words uttered across a restaurant table after seeing the doctor that day in 1995, "God isn't done with LATCOM yet. **There is too much left to do.**"

Thank you!

In the fight to the end.....

Tim Ramsey

P.S. A short-term mission team will be going to Monte Blanco in February. Pray as we work on electrical issues and train staff in programming ideas. Ceci and I will be accompanying this team. Two other teams will be going to Bolivia this year. If you are interested in joining any of these teams, contact the office for more information.

TRANSFORMING LIVES AND BUILDING ETERNAL FOUNDATIONS THROUGH TRAINING, EQUIPPING, and MOTIVATING