

# Harbin Winter Newsletter - 2009

**Dear friends and family,**

A new year brings both reflection and hope -- and I like that. I am now into my ninth year here in France, and many of you have been tracking with me all those years, and some even longer! Thank you for your confidence, support and prayers. This year has already brought about the strong need for intercession and encouragement from God's people. It is a blessing to be able to depend on you. So, as I give you an overview of the activities and ministry opportunities from the last three months, I would ask you to think about three words: **change, difference, and impact**. Reflect with me, please:

**December 2008:** As it was turning colder here in Montpellier, the Lugars and I headed far south... as far as Brazil where we responded to requests for proactive training for a group of Brazilian pastors and a church ministry team. I find the greatest joy in seeing experienced workers encouraged by gaining new tools and resources that help them serve better. While the training motivates, the application of God's Word and principles evoke **change** resulting in more joy and effectiveness in their lives as they serve.

We were blessed with a fantastic translator (thank you, Patrick), great facilities for the meetings (thank you, Haven of Hope in Jacarei), and invitations to return to train and encourage larger groups of Christian workers. It was an added blessing to be in the church where we ministered 5 years ago. **Then...**there were 65 people meeting under a car port to start a church. **Now** ...there is a national pastor leading hundreds of believers gathered in beautiful facilities with indigenous worship and music. That is the **difference** resulting from vision, time and also faithfulness of committed missionaries who have planted, trained, and then released the work to national leadership. That is the goal of missionaries – to work themselves out of a job! And for us, there was the additional blessing of getting to spend Christmas with Russ and Diane Dean. Being with family just makes any holiday better and this was no exception. Thanks for praying for us there. Since Brazil has become a major sending country, please continue to pray God would supply staff and resources to meet the need for a member care center there in South America.



**January 2009:** January began with thanksgiving as we received our support reports and sat in amazement of God's supply with 2008 year end gifts. Many of you blessed me with your generosity. Thank you so very much. With your gifts we are able to **serve more people, and serve them well**. That means hundreds of congregations and church plants, along with their leaders, are being cared for and nurtured. Your gifts make that possible.

Our year started out with our team gathering with other member care providers who live here in France, but serve a large part of the world. Being together provides encouragement, accountability, new resources, fellowship, prayer and laughter. And what a great spot to gather surrounded by God's spectacular creation. If you look closely in the picture, you will see Mont Blanc in the distance!



**February 2009:** This month we had our annual board meeting with our board of directors and it was a blessing on several fronts. One is that we desire accountability spiritually and professionally. Secondly, when we report ministry activity over the past year, we have yet another reason to praise the Lord. I hope you will be as excited as they were with the results we saw in 2008. Imagine - **through your gifts, in 2008 One Another Ministries International provided services for :**

- 328 individual Christian workers originating from...
- 11 countries (2 first time), serving in ...
- 32 countries (9 first time), and through...
- 46 sending agencies (19 first time).

This means that last year, the ministry directly impacted :

- 85 individuals, 35 couples, 15 families, 7 field or ministry teams, and 19 entire organizations.
  - Through group interventions for 2008, we provided training and consulting to 142 Christian leaders and workers through 6 seminars and conferences.
- Through individual and small group interventions, your gifts allowed us to provide:
  - **Responsive care** (primarily responding to conflict, depression/burnout, crisis/trauma, addictions), and **Proactive services** (consulting, encouragement, debriefing) to **186 missionaries and Christian leaders and workers.**
  - Through this, we provided 368 guest nights of hospitality to those receiving services on site.

Overall, between 1999 and 2008, One Another Ministries provided services to **2,422 Christian workers** of **48 different nationalities** serving in **88 countries (or regions)** through **130 sending agencies or churches.** **To God be the glory!** I hope you are encouraged by that report.

During February, I felt a personal need for encouragement and witnessed God stepping in to meet that need for me. Encouragement can look very different for each of us. It may be the anticipated “care package” sent by a ladies’ prayer group (things I can share with others). Sometimes it is a book or DVD that blesses my guests and me. Sometimes it is just a timely phone call. And here is a sample of *practical* encouragement I received last week from a dear friend:

*“Dear Dorcas - It is good to know the Lord is taking care of you. You are so far away and at times it is difficult for me to remember your daily needs are no different than mine when it comes to loneliness, need of encouragement, and just wisdom for the day....I believe for such a time as this, your work is vital to the future of world evangelism. Too many people are in crises and just don’t know what to do to get beyond them. Your ministry is effectual.”*

Another example of encouragement was a supporter praying and asking God to fill me with a sense of joy following ministry this past week. As I took the “clients” to the airport this morning, I was filled with joy...joy in seeing God at work in their lives and joy for Him strengthening those who serve in very difficult places around the world. Friends, **you** make the **difference** in the lives of these folks..

This month began with receiving clients and more are scheduled in the next few days. Later this month I will be traveling to N. Africa to participate in a training retreat for an organization whose presence is critical in that region. In addition I will be available for counsel and consultation. In April I will be sharing in a conference in Croatia for workers ministering throughout EurAsia. ***Please bathe me in prayer for these meetings and opportunities. Ask God to provide and give me wisdom, discernment, creativity and effectiveness for His honor and glory.***

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter, and thanks for the part you have had in this report. Though we are challenged by the economy now, we are **more encouraged** by the numbers of people who have been **impacted** by the ministry. I hope you will rejoice with us. I am encouraged knowing you will continue to pray, invest, and stay in touch. (My contact information is below.)

Blessings as together we make Him known,



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**Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:**

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