

November 24, 2009

Dear friends,

During these 13 years of ministry with Cross Culture, I have seen God move in so many ways. He has moved during the lean years. He has moved during the plentiful years. There have been seasons when it seemed like we would never get another opportunity to minister. There have been seasons when it seemed like we would never get a break! In every situation I have learned to say, **“Glory to God! Blessed be His name. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away!”** With this in mind, I find it important to update you on the current status of our ministry. I do not write to lay a guilt trip on anyone. I do not write in order to manipulate the actions of people. I simply write in order to keep you informed and provide you with an opportunity to consider the need.

As we completed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009, I was amazed at the increase in partner giving! Not only did we meet our increased budget, but witnessed an all time high in contributions. This was extremely encouraging in light of a thinner event schedule. I was hoping that this increase would not be the peak of the year but rather an indication of great growth in our ministry. However, we have watched partner giving steadily decline throughout the year. Following are the corresponding figures: **1<sup>st</sup> quarter = \$15,095.81, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter = 12,194.06, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter = \$9,410.82, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to date = \$4,423.40.**

Our calendar has been very slim this year. We anticipated \$34,152.81 in love offerings and event income. The low number of events this year has served to bring in \$10,415.92. In the midst of this drop, we are still praising God and rejoicing over the opportunities and resources He HAS provided. Our priority is to trust that God’s provision is sufficient to do His will. We don’t blame God or the economy when funds are low. The board and I are working to save every penny we can in our spending. God has also provided opportunities for me to minister and receive compensation outside of Cross Culture i.e: teaching at Foothills Christian College. There is no need to panic when income is low. This is simply a time to evaluate our budget, communicate our situation to you, and seek God’s direction in light of multiple circumstances. Meanwhile, there are some questions the board, staff, and I must ask if we truly want to honor God with His provision. They are as follows:

- *Are we effectively communicating our mission to partners, pastors, and churches?*
- *Have we done something to offend partners, pastors, and churches?*
- *Is God simply teaching us better ways to steward His resources?*
- *Has CCM “run its course” OR is there more to be done?*

**We are willing to make major adjustments in order to move forward with God!** Your response to this letter will be very helpful. Please take some time this week to pray for CCM.

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Meanwhile, I invite you to reflect upon your experience(s) with CCM and our ministers. Consider the following questions:

- ***Did you experience the power and presence of God?***
- ***Did you see someone surrender to Jesus as savior and Lord?***
- ***Have you witnessed a real change in someone close to you through CCM?***
- ***Have you heard God speak to your heart while reading our newsletters?***
- ***Have you seen a specific church impacted for God's glory?***
- ***Has your personal ministry been blessed through CCM?***
- ***If you served with us, has God used us to help you in ministry?***
- ***Are evangelists part of God's Kingdom plan? (see Ephesians 4:11-12)***

After you have considered the above questions and taken time to pray, I invite you to respond to this letter in one of the following ways:

- **Fast and pray for CCM (wisdom, provision, opportunity).**
- **Schedule a ministry event with us. Call 336-707-2421.**
- **Become a monthly partner for 2010. (Instructions below)**
- **Current partners: Make a special year end contribution**
- **Current partners: Continue your partnership with us in 2010.**

*Not that I seek money, but I seek the opportunity to minister and for you to be included in that blessing. Indeed I have everything I need because God continues to take care of me. I have been blessed through the goodness of so many Christians with finances, groceries, gas money, encouragement, and opportunity. Through God's people, my needs have been met. Your gifts are an act of worship to God. They are like a sweet-smelling aroma to Him. Your sacrifices are pleasing to Him. Just as God has supplied the ministry's needs through you, He will supply your needs as well. He has made His provision available to us through Jesus Christ. However you choose to respond to this letter, may God get all the glory! And may we give Him glory in the way we manage the resources He entrusts to us. (Paraphrased from Philippians 4:17-20).*

Servant of Jesus Christ,

Brother Dale Elwell

**To become a ministry partner, make check payable to "Cross Culture Ministries" and indicate type (monthly, one-time) of gift on memo line. Send to: P.O. Box 4144/Greensboro, NC 27405. Upon receipt, we will begin sending a monthly letter, envelope, and quarterly newsletter.**

Cross Culture Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4144, Greensboro, NC 27404, 336-282-8500 [www.crosscultureministries.org](http://www.crosscultureministries.org)

**igniting the next generation for Christ**