



Global Connection International

Connecting People who care with the World's Greatest Needs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"We walk by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7, NRSV

Have you ever thought, I know life will get easier -- but it never does. Some problems fade away, but others take their place: finances; children; illness; opposition; disappointment and the list could go on.

2008 has given us all every reason to ask -- how much worse can it get? **But, in our faith walk we can surely look at life differently.**

If you were able to look at the original copy of this letter you would find some big **drops of tears**. They are the result of some very unusual year- end notes that accompanied very special gifts.

- "My husband lost his job two weeks ago, but here is our love to you and your ministry." Enclosed was \$4.00
- From supporters for over 50 years. "It looks like we are going to lose our pension because of the bad economy. We will continue to do what we can but right now things look pretty gloomy." Enclosed was \$25.00
- From a former Denver area pastor who worked on our Denver YFC staff -- now living in California. "In November our trailer park was destroyed by fire. We just had time to get my wife out in her wheel chair and save a few valuable things. Everything else was lost." I picked up the phone to call these dear friends who were relocated to a retirement center. "We're fine Jim. We are starting over but our faith is strong. I'll be 93 next week, Jim. You'll never know how much your call means to me." Enclosed was \$50.00
- From Georgia, "This is the 50th day that I have been sitting by the side of my beloved husband who collapsed while getting ready for a Youth For Christ high school assembly. He had a Sub Arachnoids hemorrhage on the left side of his brain. He just opened his eyes a few days ago. Please pray for his recovery. Enclosed was a check for \$50.00.

Each of these folks had several things in common. Their gift demonstrated **Hope and Faith**. They were not looking back but ahead. In the midst of their own turmoil and suffering **they reached out to the world with a gift of love**.

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Contrast the faith of these precious folks with the tragic suicide deaths of two billionaires -- one from France, the other from Germany. It appears that faith and hope were absent.

I can't even begin to express in words how these notes and expressions of faith have affected me -- but one thing is certain, I've asked the Lord to help me make certain that our organization never takes for granted the sacrifice and value of every gift that is entrusted into our care.

Like most organizations, **2008 was a very difficult year for Global Connection International.** Our biggest problem is adequate funding for our general operations. Giving to projects has been on par with most recent years -- but giving to general operations has declined about 20%.

As we step into this New Year, we are **cautiously optimistic** that God does not want us to look back or abandon the projects that he has led us to begin.

As a Bible College Student I presented a paper on J. Hudson Taylor as a class assignment. I recently found that paper in my files. Reading it after all these years inspired me with the thoughts of this letter. I plan to re-print it and would like to send a copy to you upon request.

In 1865 J. Hudson Taylor traveled from England to China and founded the China Inland Mission. When he died in 1905 there were 300 mission stations; 849 missionaries and nearly 150,000 Chinese Christians...and Taylor had translated the New Testament into the Ningpo dialect.

Hudson Taylor's motto was "God's work done in God's way will never lack for provision."

J. Hudson Taylor's principal philosophy of fund raising can be summed up in these words. "I will tell God about our needs. Through prayer, God will move people of compassion to act."

As a medical trainee, he was called out late one night to pray over a sick woman with starving children. As he tried to pray, his words choked in his mouth because he had in his possession a silver coin that would answer his prayer and alleviate their suffering. He gave the sick woman his last coin -- only one bowl of porridge between him and poverty! As he ate the last meal he remembered the Scripture, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."

The next day he received a package. In it was a gold coin -- worth ten times the silver coin. Taylor was nineteen years of age. That lesson stayed with him for a lifetime.

As we walk through this New Year, I will continue to be a good story teller of what God is doing through the GCI Ministry Team and about our project needs in the difficult countries of the world where we have been called.

As God lays these needs on your heart, we will be good stewards of the treasure you entrust into our care. I have enclosed a list of projects that depend on our support. Please do what you can.

Yours for the cause that counts,


Jim Groen