

October, 1979

Dear wonderful, faithful supporters,

I have a whole stack of receipts long overdue in being sent to you. Three times I have written half a letter, but never got it sent. This time I'll send this letter no matter when I get interrupted.

Physically Ralph and I are in good shape. He had a bit of a problem for a few days with lymphoangitis or some such, but he is now fine. He never stopped at all--just took what the doctor ordered--penicillin.

The summer was extremely full for both of us--trips all over the East and Midwest, speaking at least once a day, sometimes more. Then in August the Athens Conference on World Evangelization. (I, Roberta, got to go because someone cancelled out at the last minute, leaving the money for me to attend. Wasn't that super?) Then our Sept. 15th large deadline, part of which is still hanging over our heads--I'll explain in a minute.

It is hard to know what and how to cut out traveling. People want Ralph to come here and go there, and rarely is it just to fill some awkward gap which a pastor unexpectedly has. For instance, he gave the only address to 150 missions executives at the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association Executives Retreat. You can hardly turn down an opportunity like that to influence top leaders. He has been asked to speak at several important conferences or schools in England, Norway and Germany, but has cut that back to two weeks only because he just can't be gone that much. A lot of people are now talking about the frontiers in missions, but they often look to him for suggestions about how to go about it, and we are both humbled and grateful, but also pressed time-wise beyond our abilities.

Now about our Sept. 15th deadline. We have paid \$250,000 of the money owed the college, but still need immediately \$90,000. They can foreclose any day, but, praise the Lord, decided to be patient with us and stated through their lawyer that they believe in us. But we are in a real bind. We believe the Lord will bring it in, but with another \$175,000 quarterly payment due in December, it is hard not to get a bit anxious. Two different parties have promised the last \$10,000, and another the last \$2500, so that brings the amount down. But we still have a large gap to fill. So join us in persevering prayer that the Lord will provide. Foreclosure with the loss of everything is unthinkable. Yet we do not have the money unless somehow God brings it in.

On the other hand, it is exciting to see how many churches are catching the vision. We have an increase in the number of donors over the last 6 months which averages 37% for the entire U.S. Pastors are holding Hidden People Sundays, and Christian schools like Columbia Bible College are passing on the vision, and the need. So in the sense of our goal of spreading the word about Hidden Peoples, we are making real headway. But our problem is that with the self-imposed limitation of asking for only \$15.95, the vision just isn't spreading quite fast enough to keep up with our payment schedule. But God knows that. If only every one of those who have already given \$15.95 could get another to do so for each week in the next 6 weeks (that is, six per person), we would have a million dollars. That seems unbelievable. But it is true.

I'm enclosing for your perusal our annual report. It was written in response to 7 questions asked by one of our supporting churches.

Our third daughter, Linda, graduated with honors from the School of Business at Cal State this last June. After working on College Staff at Lake Ave. church

all summer, she is now joining our staff, helping with the accounting in the university and plant management section. Along with her sisters, she plans to become a missionary, but just now is helping out here. Did we ever need her! Anyhow, she is starting to raise her own support, but until she can at least pay her rent and buy her food, we will help her out of what you have given us. We truly have appreciated your faithful support of us. With the millions of dollars to be concerned about, it is such a blessing that the hundreds we need to be fed and clothed is faithfully provided each month by each of you. We thank God for you all the time.

We want you to know we also pray for you. We know many of you are going through difficult times--this includes churches and individuals. We are convinced that we live in a day when Satan is trying his very best to deflect God's people from being able to fulfill His commission. How much more we ought to rejoice since we know that when he fights, Christ raises up a standard against him. And the final victory is already ours. So we're all in a battle, but the Commander of God's own army is our leader. Therefore we rejoice.

Love to you all. Keep praying.

*Roberta and Ralph*  
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