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International Reconciliation Coalition

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First of all, thank you for your intercession for us. There are small positive changes taking place with Paul. The other night we were driving back from the film "Amistad", he made a little speech in front of his brothers. He told me how much he honored the work I was doing reconciling people. I just cried. There is not much we can see on the outside, but we continue to trust God. On the other hand, Julie and I are going through profound changes.

I have access to a little condo near the beach at Oxnard, about forty minutes north of LA. I'm in the middle of an intense schedule (sixteen nations in eleven months), but I'm presently taking a few weeks to complete two books on reconciliation. I've been thinking a lot about the future.

Julie and I feel seriously destabilized and we have talked back and forth on the phone about selling our house and looking for a suitable location for ourselves and the others who are starting to join us, a place where we could live in a cluster around some facility that serves as ministry headquarters. The vision is big and I need all the help I can get from you who are closest to me.

Julie and I have become convinced that we are to move and we are beginning to prepare our house for our departure. We have been exploring properties between Los Angeles and Ventura. There are many complications with our children, but we're sure that God is with us, that God is up to something. I'm beginning to list the things that we need on the property, as we seek to lead this coalition and host other leaders, and I'm beginning to realize that we need a lot more money than we have. Will you be involved with me in this process of acquisition?

A lot of this also ties into a word from God to me about caring for Julie in this season of our lives. Julie has followed me through the pit for twenty-five years in terms of environment, stress and separations, and I hope to provide for her a location that fits a dignified and gracious woman of God. Just yesterday two police officers were shot in our neighborhood. I'm fully engaged in the devastated zones of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and it's like coming home to recover in the middle of a war zone. Our block has become a testimony of the grace and victory of God, but our part of the city is still a very needy place. As long as I was leading out in the battle for L.A. I had grace, but now I am no longer at the forefront of local evangelism, I need to get off this battlefield and find a place of refuge to return to. On my last trip I was dealing with the Civil War in Sri Lanka, which has raged for fifteen years. I then went on to minister

with our workers in the poverty and filth of Madras, India. Inner city L.A. was originally my calling and my credibility, but as the International Reconciliation Coalition has expanded to the trouble spots of the world, living here has become more of a hindrance than a help. (I've been in the city for twenty-seven years.)

We are in total unity about this move, and suddenly full of faith and energy for pioneering a new thing. Our present home is perfectly located for YWAM ministries because it is so near to the base. We are hoping that one of the local Christian families will buy it. We're even praying about giving it to a YWAM'er that we have in mind. We hate to just pull the equity out and lose such a wonderful asset for the work here in this city. Sadly, because it's in a multi-cultural community, our home is worth relatively little, even though it is spacious and beautiful by local standards.

We feel led to the city of Oxnard, which is also multi-ethnic and quite needy, but is small and quiet compared to L.A., and not too far away. The beach area has some very peaceful neighborhoods. Four times people have opened vacation homes to me in the Marina district in order for me to write. I have not solicited this and the people did not know each other, so I took it as a sign from the Lord that He was trying to "show" me this place. The county of Ventura has increasingly become our resource base in the last seven years. The united pastors have invited us to establish an international office here, which we have, in a small donated office, and many talented people have come forward to help us serve the fifty-seven reconciliation initiatives that are now taking place around the world.

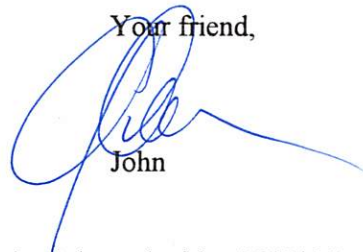
I can't believe I'm writing this, it's all happening so suddenly. But leaders have to lead and it's time for us to move out in radical obedience and faith in order for many other leaders to enter their inheritance.

Last week we found the home we believe we are to buy. It looks over a little park and although smaller than our present home, has everything that we need for the children. It has sat unsold for four years and is now offered for half the original price. We believe God has kept it for us, even though it is far beyond our means. The prices of homes outside the black community boggle our minds, but whenever we get anxious, God leads us to some passage of scripture that rebukes our unbelief and asks us to trust Him.

On the same day we found this house, we found an excellent property for our headquarters, only one mile away. I don't know many details about this property yet. My mind is reeling, but there is such confirmation in our spirits that God is leading us. We haven't told anybody about this yet, except three close friends. But an intercessor sent in an e-mail just now saying she keeps getting the word "suddenly" when praying for us.

What do you think? Can you help us? I have no idea what your situation is, but I had the impression that I was to boldly approach the friends who have helped us financially in the past. Because of our unorthodox means of income, we would need a very substantial down payment to qualify for a loan. Naturally the banks don't understand our life of faith. The impossibility of all this makes me smile, but I feel God's delight in me when I follow Him in a childlike way.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John

P.S. We are still YWAM'ers and tax receipts can be obtained through either YWAM or the IRC but money must be carefully designated in order to reach us.