



Dear Friend,

We've had an incredible year! God has met us in special ways that have opened us to greater and deeper rest in Him. Even in the face of physical and financial limitations we have seen and experienced God's goodness in the lives of many He has brought our way. I know it may seem obvious yet, many have discovered God's strength in the midst of our (and their own) weakness, which has increased our hunger and deepened our worship. This is our work, our joy, our vision—to hunger after God so that we worship Him more fully and deeply...and draw others into this life as well.

Here are some highlights from the year:

Soul Care...

- 28 Mission agencies served in 13 countries
- Hundred's of pastors and missionaries gathered in our homes for special events like evenings of prayer, seasonal celebrations, Bible study, small group and game nights.
- Launched a People Care Seminar in the States, developed a mission life seminar on Third Culture Kids.
- Time spent with 250 Pastors and Missionaries deepening the work of God in their lives

Communications...

- This was the year of updates! Check out our new branding, brochure and website. We've already had many more inquiries for service through our new website.

Staff...

- We've doubled in size. God brought the Stirling's, Gibson's and Wendy Larson to us this year. The Stirling's and Gibson's are teaming up in Budapest, Hungary while Wendy has located in Chiang Mai, Thailand to explore possibilities in Asia.
- The Moore's have settled into Belgium. Their teaching and mentoring responsibilities in the church ramped up quickly and they are doing well.

With all that's going on we can hardly wait to see what God will unfold in the coming year. We are sure of one thing though; we would not be here without you. And we are grateful; both for your financial commitment and your prayer...we need it!

Because He Is Near,

President



Leadership Team



Thailand

People often ask us, "How do you know when you're finished working with someone?" Really, it becomes obvious. As a person becomes stronger, revitalized and more confident, they become more convinced that Jesus truly is the answer...in the face of any struggle.

The letter below highlights what we mean.

Dear Jeanni,

"Our time in the states was kind of crazy. It still felt like home, but I found myself missing [the field]! Who knew??!! I think I'm doing much better these days, but it's still a day-by-day process. Thank you so much for all of your love, wisdom, and time. They have been a priceless gift! When we first met over a year ago you told me that God had given me a gift in the experiences that we had had and I thought you were crazy! :) It didn't feel like a gift. But now I am beginning to see it, and I am at a point where I would choose it all again to get to this place. Really, I can't tell you how much God has used you to help us (me in particular). I don't think we would still be here if He hadn't brought us together. I pray that you guys are blessed as much as you have blessed us.



David's mentoring trip in Laos

We do feel blessed! With significant work in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, China, India and Turkey we are blessed! With a great ministry facility, strategic school for our kids and growing house church – we feel blessed! We are deeply thankful for all God has done and cannot wait to see what He will do next!

Indonesia



Chuck and Hiais at graduation

Meet Hiais, a proud graduate of Berita Hidup Seminary in Indonesia, who pastors 3 churches and provides oversight for the Sumatra Island churches planted by AMG. One of many graduates, Hia's influence in the region is less impressive than his heart for the Lord. The Spirit's fruit is clearly evident in his life. His wife, Nur, is equally involved in ministry as a translator for Chuck and other visiting professors at the Seminary.

Using a discipleship model of teaching, Chuck has the privilege of training men and women like Hiais & Nur for ministry in Indonesia each year. This year he teaches a basic Bible study methods course as well as basic pastoral care for area pastors and church workers.

Though Chuck and Lois have a vibrant discipleship ministry in Texas they spend much time teaching in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Hungary



Ladies Tea

Life has not been dull for the Stirlings in Hungary. In fact, they are known for their 4th of July barbecue, Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas teas. They pack as many in to these events as possible and long after the food is gone many linger just to chat a little longer with someone who wants to hear their story.

Jeanie spent the better part of the year struggling with several bouts of pneumonia and post-infectious arthritis. She was sick! Yet, God used these 'useless moments' in her life to reveal Himself in new ways to Al & Jeanie. In spite of physical limitations, God used them to touch the lives of 75 missionaries representing 12 mission agencies. God's strength and goodness was evident in these many 'life with life' encounters simply through their weakness.

It is possible to come out on the other side of difficult circumstances, ... "more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible." (2 Cor. 7:11, MSG) Thanks to Al & Jeanie, we are catching a small glimpse of what Paul may have meant...

Belgium

Much has happened in our first six months of arriving in Belgium. We are still adjusting to the many differences in culture and lifestyle. Although we lived in Canada for many years, living in Europe has taken us another giant step out of our comfort zone. Initially, everything was new and exciting. A few months later, we hit the proverbial fish-washed-up-on-an-unknown-shore experience screaming, "What were we thinking?! We are grateful to have the language and have newfound respect for fellow missionaries who begin again and again with language and culture.



Pastoral team in Warre

Today, I (Judy) kick off Bible study with several ladies from church. One in particular, Thérèse is a seeker whose son Pierre-Olivier attends our church. She and I hit it off a few times when we were with her son and his wife Marie. Her spiritual interest is exciting.

Trip is working on a series of messages he will give at a week long youth camp in the French Alps. There is a vibrant youth movement in Brussels that draws 14 to 25 year-olds from all over Belgium to weekly Wednesday night meetings. We are hoping to have more opportunities to work with and train the future leaders of the Belgian church.

As I reflect back on the past six months, I am surprised to see the opportunities we have had in such a short time. This exercise has both encouraged and challenged us. I know God is on a mission to conform us into the likeness of his Son, and the work here is tailor-made to bring about that very thing.

This has been a year of growth and expansion. In adding staff, updating our communications and taking extra time and energy in fund development we are able to offer care beyond our borders as never before.

Donor income: \$263,952



Fund Balances

	12/31/08	12/31/07
Operations	\$45,140	\$70,472
Program	\$66,542	\$109,015
Balance	\$111,682	\$179,487

What's Ahead in 2009...

Rejuvenate

- We are seeking a fresh infusion of energy, vision and stamina through reading, learning, praying and worship.

Rethink

- Strategies for soul care and study curriculums for missionaries and pastors
- Internal structures as our staff increases

Retool

- Complete our communications make-over with a new DVD, updated news graphics and launched newslogs
- Broaden our networking and partner base
- Seek the Lord's direction regarding ministry finances. Our financial foundations need strengthening.
- We need a steady supply of books, articles and magazines for our ministry center libraries and to give away.



Random Trivia

Ministry Essentials

Mission Agencies served this year

Pioneers
AMG
Campus Crusade
SEND
IMB
Cadence
UWM
Assemblies of God
InterServe
AERC
ELIC
Christar
EPC - World Outreach
International Justice Mission
World Team
YouthCompass
New Tribes
SIL / Wycliff
OM
SIM
TEAM
MUPS
GEM
Entrust
GIS
IBSB
CMA
YWAM

Countries served

by Europe Team



Poland
Austria
Hungry
Albania
Belgium
Germany
Czech
Serbia
Romania
Lithuania

Countries served

by Asia Team



China
Malaysia
Hong Kong
Laos
Cambodia
India

World Economy Based on The cost of a BigMac

US - \$2.50
Thailand - \$1.74
Hungary - \$2.88
Belgium - n/a (they just eat chocolate ?!)

Most expensive : Norway - \$5.86
Least expensive : Ukraine - \$1.24

Gas prices in :

Brussels - \$5.91
Budapest - \$4.94
Chiang Mai - \$1.61

Most expensive : Netherlands - \$6.48
Least expensive : Venezuela - \$.12

City's nickname



Brussel 's nickname : " Capital of Europe " or " Comic City "

Density 6,238/km²

Budapest 's nickname : " Pearl of the Danube " or " Heart of Europe "

Density 3,232/km²

Chiang Mai 's nickname : " Rose of the north "

Density 3,687/km²

