



May 19, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in the faith and in the call of Jesus to share the Good News with grace and truth,

The board of Global Teams has elected me to serve as the chairman, but I write to you also as a fellow traveler on this journey of faith. I had the opportunity to reflect this morning on the majestic chapter of Paul in Romans 8. I was helped by listening to a [podcast](#) by Trevor Hudson. Perhaps like many of you, I enjoy hearing the ringing triumph of Paul that there is now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. Then I skip ahead to the promise for now and forever that the love of Jesus will never be taken away from us. Amen and amen. This is what I know in my deepest being and compels me to eagerly spread this Good News. ***I want to see the heart of Christ in the skin of every culture!***

And yet, in between these promises I also hear a groaning. In fact, as Trevor Hudson notes in the podcast, there are three “groanings”. First is the groaning of creation (Romans 8:22). I hear the cry of all the people Global Teams is trying to reach. Why is it that so many do not have scripture in a form and language that is meaningful to them? Why is it that I can know this inseparable love of Jesus, but so many have not heard? There are many wonderful ministries, but this is where God has called me to listen and act: ***to multiply disciples of Jesus within cultures least familiar with the Gospel.*** And I am so thankful to have partners like you who have also heard this groaning.

The second “groaning” is within me, as it is within each of you (Romans 8:23). I feel inadequate to the task. I suspect you do, too. Good. For I know that in my weakness, in my tears, in my inadequacy, Jesus will meet me. And he will meet you. The board has many administrative duties involving budgets, personnel, and policies. But I want you to know that we stand with you in your hurts and your hopes, and we pray that Jesus will meet you in a way that is both personal and powerful.

And that leads to the third groaning: the Spirit himself is groaning and interceding within us ¹ (Romans 8:26). Frequently I do not know how to pray. I hope for the brilliant insight but often feel like a clay jar. I am pressured with responsibilities of work and family. My prayer is feeble. But I am so grateful that the Spirit is praying within me, beyond anything I can speak or understand. And I know that God has great plans for Global Teams, because he wants Jesus to be recognized as Messiah among every language, culture, and people. I can pray for that.

I want to express the board’s deep appreciation for all of the Global Teams partners who help us fulfill God’s calling -- to the Area Directors, the administrative staff, the country coordinators, the special operations coordinators, and especially Curtis Chanda, our International Director. If there are questions or comments, I would welcome them, as would Curtis. The board will continue to work closely with Curtis to carry on the legacy so capably started by Kevin Higgins.

Grace and peace,
Bruce Wear
Chair, Global Teams

1. Some of you English speakers may note that the NRSV translation of v. 26 uses the term “sighs” for the activity of the Spirit, but the Greek text can also be translated as “groanings” and is the same root as the groans in v 22 and v 23.