



Dear Friends and Ministry Partners!

September 20, 2024

I write this letter today with a heart of thankfulness overflowing with love and appreciation for your partnership with us in the gospel. My days are full– I count it such a privilege to participate in the great endeavor in taking the news of God’s love and plan to redeem for Himself a people to the ends of the earth. Your partnership in giving and praying makes my work possible and we are so thankful for you.

Cru explains missions with the simple phrase, “Winning, Building, and Sending”. Alan and I through the years have done all of these! In these last years, I’ve been mostly focused on the sending phase.. That is, helping to create systems and processes for getting missionaries to the field and providing support to enable them to stay. (missionary retention). Some of my work has included recruiting, evaluation, hiring, training, and now I especially work in training the International Staff coordinators who do the direct missionary care. In this letter I want to highlight two tasks I’m trusting God with these couple of weeks.

Planning a training (online) on Care Calls 2.0

One of the tasks for our missionary care coordinators is to call their missionary one-to-two times a semester to find out how they are doing. If this were your job, would you know what to ask?

All of our care coordinators have themselves lived overseas and have a desire to be loving and supportive, but figuring out how to use the hour well in talking to such busy people can still be a challenge.



Example of a previous training

One of my tasks this month is to prepare and give an online training session on Care Calls. How to schedule them? (ex. what technology is working well for this kind of scheduling) What are good topics to cover? How to provide some soul care for those who are struggling? How to create a relationship of trust while the staff is ministering on a different continent?

Another coworker, Vickie, and I are going to give the training on **Monday, Sept 30**. Would you pray for us to equip these coworkers to be even more skillful in their care-giving abilities?

An American staff thinking about marrying and living in the Middle East



Another important and fun (for me) task is help missionary couples with their visas as they plan to stay in their target country. I often tell you about some of the various couples I get to work with and this week I got to have a conversation with a couple actually *in person*! The American staff woman is from Orlando and the boyfriend is from another unnamed highly secure country. He was visiting her to meet her family.

The three of us sat down to talk through a possible timeline for them if God calls them to marry each other. The intersecting factors of visas, jobs, finances, training, health insurance can feel pretty challenging to sort out. What a joy for me to talk with this couple to try to help them be set up to thrive in their marriage and live in his country! I’m looking forward to seeing how God leads them.

Again, my deep thanks to you,

Ashli Perman