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"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;" – I Timothy 1:12

The Apostle Paul was grateful for God calling him and using him in the ministry. Barbara and I also feel so blessed, for the privilege of serving our Savior for the past 15 years with HELP Ministries.

Quite often someone will ask me, "So what is it exactly that you do with HELP Ministries?" That is what I want to answer in this letter.

The main responsibilities that Dr. Scotty Drake had in mind when he asked me to consider joining HELP Ministries was to take over the Florida conferences that are held in the Spring and Fall of each year, and then also travel to visit the national pastors in their countries to see their works, encourage them and provide accountability for their supporting churches here in the States.

Setting Up Conferences

In the Spring of the year we bring in only one group of national pastors who travel with a number of our HELP reps from Florida to Maine. They are here in Florida for only about three weeks. But in the fall when we bring in two groups, one group of about four men stay in Florida from September through November, and another four to five nationals visit churches from Georgia to Tennessee. The leadership in our office in King, NC, determines who comes, and arranges for their flights to and from the United States. All the conference expenses including plane tickets, gas for the vans,

food, etc is covered by the love offerings given by churches who have mission conferences.

As HELP representatives, our job is to call pastors and schedule churches for the conferences, mail out schedules, recruit volunteer drivers to transport the missionaries to each church, drive to the churches ourselves, and then assist in the services as the pastor directs us.

National pastors bring a new excitement and interest to church mission conferences. They speak, sing, preach and testify or show videos. Pastors and church members are motivated to support them both financially and with prayer. Churches usually support these missionaries for \$20-\$50 a month. With these funds they can return to their home countries and afford to train their own preachers to plant churches throughout their countries.

Writing About the National Pastors

Much time is spent with the national pastors hearing their amazing stories of salvation, persecution, and ministry. This has led Tom to write four volumes with 20 stories each of our national pastors titled *"Miracles in Missions" Vol. 1-4*.

For 10 years, Tom developed and taught the national pastors here a 30-hour college course which was approved by Landmark Baptist College in Haines City, Florida. They covered the following topics: Pastoral Ministry, Church Music, Marriage, World Missions, and Baptist Distinctives. Upon completion, the college presented each student a certificate awarding them 2-credit hours

toward a Master's Degree if they decided to pursue one through the College. To date, over 100 national pastors from 30 countries have completed the course. Many commented what a help and blessing it was to them and how they would take the material and teach it to their Bible school students as well.

Traveling to Their Countries

Traveling overseas to visit our national pastors has been a blessing as well. Tom has traveled to a number of countries to teach pastors and visit the churches they have planted. They include the following: India, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Philippines, St. Vincent, Myanmar, Haiti, Cuba, Panama and Peru.

While we are at home for several months in Lehigh Acres, Florida, we are involved in our home church, Labelle Baptist Temple, Pastor Archie Parrish. There Barbara serves as the church pianist. We both are involved in the soul winning program and workdays at the church. Barbara spends three days a week teaching 11 piano students. She also makes scrubbies and dish cloths for the wives of our national pastors. Often, Tom is asked to fill pulpits and preach mission conferences.

Hopefully, this report will clarify what we do with HELP Ministries. How humbled we are to think that you all continue to support us faithfully to make a difference around the world. Only Heaven will reveal what has been accomplished through this ministry.

Your friends and coworkers in Christ,
Thomas and Barbara Knickerbocker