



LEADERSHIP VISTAS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear friends and family,

We are entering a time of year when many are planning celebrations of important events ---after all, this is the season of high school and college graduations, weddings, national holidays, and vacations. So too at the end of our recent trip to Africa I quietly noted **a special moment in the history of Leadership Vistas---the completion in our first five years of fifteen leadership development conferences for several hundred church leaders.** The celebration was quiet, no fanfare or fireworks. But it was no less significant, for it marked the Lord's continued blessing of our work. ***Praise Him for His faithfulness!***

In truth, the journey has not been easy, and I could point to obstacles and struggles that have been in our path since the ministry's inception. Colleagues here and abroad have noticed that **resistance has become more intense** *as the impact of the ministry has grown.* That God's Word would frequently speak about the necessity of perseverance clearly shows His anticipation of opposition to His design for the creation. Nevertheless, we take delight in LVIM's contribution, for it is a joy that comes from knowing that He will ultimately triumph.

From these reflections on our past **we envision a future full of possibilities for serving God.** Our primary focus will remain on the teaching and empowerment of God's leaders in Africa. But we are now also *taking our first steps to create a program of courses that will address the needs of women* who hold positions of influence in the church. **We see ahead other opportunities for collaboration** with church partners and gifted church leaders, whose visions embrace areas of social responsibility and change and have the potential for national and regional impact. In this revision, **we are doing no more than following the example of our savior Jesus Christ,** who called all of us to first love the Lord and then to love our neighbor. In such ways we serve Him.

As we move forward, we ask you to **join us in prayer** that *God will give us wisdom and guidance* as we make decisions about future directions for the ministry; that *He will protect His church leaders and their families in Africa;* and that *He will provide additional financial resources* needed for the training conferences and ongoing operation of the ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support; **thank you** for your kind and generous hearts; **thank you** for partnering with us in this work of and for the Lord. ***May He receive all the glory!***

In Christ's service,

Jerry Brown
Executive Director