



So then . . . continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy . . . Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:6-8a.

March 23, 2009



Dear Friends and Family:

As I reflect on our recent trip to Africa, I am struck by the impact of our ministry. You know that **our primary mission is to equip biblically literate leaders for God's global ministry**, leaders who teach and live the truths of His Word. We are seeing the fruits of our efforts and we would like to share some of them with you.

We rejoice in the increased confidence of church leaders. *"I feel equipped* to share the word of God . . . *I know how to present the Bible,"* comments one pastor. "I am comfortable in my ministry . . . because of the knowledge that I have gained from LVIM," observes another. I have been teaching non-Christians [Muslims]. *I can tell them that Jesus Christ is the son of God. Allah is not the same* and this has helped us," notes yet another. **Their confidence grows** out of a greater understanding of doctrinal issues and a discerning freedom from "hollow and deceptive philosophy."



We take delight that **our teachings have grounded these leaders more passionately in Jesus Christ**. People speak with excitement about *personal spiritual growth* and its effect on their relationships with God, their families, and others. They talk about their *"strengthened" faith* and their *desire to share it not only with other believers, but also with unbelievers, particularly Muslims*. Time and again *they tell us how thankful they are* for the opportunity to attend our conferences and for what they are learning. One person seemed to capture what all were feeling: **"I just want to teach others about the love of God."** These people are living out the truth of Paul's words.

Beyond the growth in competence and commitment to Christ, *one pastor distilled the essence of our mission: "We would not be able to go to bible school, but God has brought LVIM to us and it is a blessing."* Another captured *our contribution to the unity of the body of Christ: "We are Protestants, Anglicans, Baptists and Pentecostals---we have been brought together through these teachings."*

To be sure, we are pleased with these affirmations for they underscore the impact of our ministry. More importantly, we are witnessing how **God's Word is taking root in the minds and hearts** of our African brothers and sisters in Christ **and changing their lives**. In the comments of these men and women **we recognize a strong and growing faith, a greater knowledge and understanding of the Bible, an abundance of gratitude, and a commitment to live their lives for the Lord**. *We thank you*---our partners in this ministry---for your prayers and financial support. Please **join us in praising God** for the miraculous ways in which He loves and blesses us. May all the glory be given to Him!



In Christ's name,

Jerry Brown



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