July 25, 2005

Dear Friend,

Many ask why we are in Washington State, and among other things we answer that it is because Mission to the World requires a newly wed couple to stay stateside for at least the first year of their marriage. Considering the options of employment, Alicia and I both knew that we had to be in the ministry. When inquiring of the South American directors at MTW, they wholeheartedly encouraged me to steer clear of any sort of work that would not prepare us for our ministry in missions. I was very easily persuaded, and soon I was given the opportunity to serve the Lord in a scenario that would be very similar to what we hope to be doing in Peru one day. That opportunity is now a reality and since June 1st, I have been meeting with churches and pastors with the goal of reaching the Hispanic community in Tacoma.

It has been an incredible joy to be able to minister to people full time and watch them coming to faith. One of the early tastes of God's grace in my work here was when I was able to visit a juvenile detention hall. I visited with the Youth for Christ chaplain and watched as cell doors opened and out poured uniformed young men – mainly of White, Black and Hispanic origin. We had a small chapel and I watched as some responded and others did not. One who did not was a sixteen year old from Mexico called Javier. He was very quiet and sat alone, obviously excluded from the rest of the group. When the chapel ended I asked Javier (in Spanish) if he had understood the message. When he said no, I asked him if we could talk. A little while later, with a huge smile on both of our faces, we embraced and I welcomed Javier into the family of God. His prayer seemed sincere, and with joy in his eyes, he asked for a Bible in the Spanish language. Praise the Lord for this new brother! Please pray as I follow up with him!

We also ask that you would pray as I continue to develop relationships with church leaders and seek mentors who can continue the work that is beginning in this area. My goal in this one year is to work along with Youth for Christ – a Christian organization – in Tacoma that has four main outlets: Campus Ministry, Juvenile Hall Ministry, Foster Care and Parenting Workshops. I work with these four particular programs because they are already established programs that have witnessed interest on the part of Hispanic children and parents. Their inability to reach these Hispanic communities, however, is not solved by hiring a translator. Their need is to connect God-fearing Hispanic men and women in these four ministries and have a channel for them to connect these new believers to Christ-centered churches in the area. For that reason, one of my primary functions is that of networking and prayer! I admit that meeting with busy pastors and administrators that have up and running ministries, and very little time, can be quite intimidating to me. However, God has never failed me, and his grace continues to abound even while I fumble for words to communicate the vision and calling that God has given me this year.

Fortunately, this job also brings a test with it, and that is support-raising. It is a way in which God tenderly pushes us closer to a more real dependence upon him and his body, the Church. We, as a portion of the body of Christ, are unable to live independently. We depend on Christ and his strength and support through the use of the other members of the body. For that reason, brothers and sisters, we humbly come before you asking that you would hear our request and prayerfully consider how you might give financially toward our ministry. We have been able to raise one fourth of our total need thus far, but we are still in need of more monthly support. Would you consider supporting us on a regular basis during this year? Though seeking support is a part of our ministry here, we would love to be spending more time on the field itself, for the harvest is overflowing and the workers are few.

Please do give us a call – we would love to talk to you more. Also feel free to contact us through our new email address: Gutierrez.05@gmail.com Thank you!

In Christ,

Nathaniel

Nathaniel and Alicia Gutierrez

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Visit our websites:

Mission to the World:
http://www.mtwsa.net/people/ngutierrez.htm
Youth for Christ:
http://community.gospelcom.net/Brix?pageID=4015

MTW Internship Pledge Card

Yes, Nathaniel & Alicia Gutierrez, I/we want to be part of your ministry in, Tacoma, WA
Account # 012762 (please include this number on your check)

- I will commit to pray for you regularly.
- I would like to talk with you about your financial needs.
- I would like to support you with $_____ per month.
- Enclosed is my one-time gift of $_____.

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Please include this slip with your check, made payable to MTW and mail to:

MTW Donations
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