

Summer-Fall, 2009  
PMI Ministry Update  
J. Nelson Jennings, President

"Jars of Clay"

Most of you reading this PMI Ministry Update know personally some of the PMI Missionaries. Perhaps you met them during their time of study at Covenant Seminary. They might have visited your church when gathering their financial and prayer support team. Some of you have visited these PMI Missionaries where they are living and ministering. Many of you regularly correspond with and pray for these friends. Those of us on the PMI Board know each one of them and are in continual contact with them. We also have occasion to see them face to face, either when they visit St. Louis every now and then or when one of us manages to pay them a visit.

One great advantage in knowing PMI Missionaries personally is that you know them as real live people. They have families (some of whom are Christian and some of whom are not). They get tired and sometimes sick. Some are plodders, and some are big dreamers. Occasionally these servants acknowledge feeling discouraged, either due to opposition to their ministries or due to little evidence of fruit through their ministry efforts. All of them are in vital positions of gospel service, with some of them seeing hundreds of people involved and some only a few.

I would encourage you to stop for a minute and – as you likely are already doing – think of the PMI missionary(ies) that you know. If it would help, go their individual web pages on this site and read the latest update that has been posted. Pray for them personally and remember times you have spent with them. As these Missionaries regularly share in their communications, they remember you who are their ministry partners and are grateful for your roles in what they are doing.

It was the Apostle Paul who wrote the oft-quoted words, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not us" (II Corinthians 4:7). The gospel of Jesus Christ is the great treasure, and those of us who follow and serve Christ are like feeble, breakable clay pots. By God's grace we are useful vessels, but through our weakness God's great power is all the more evident. All of the PMI Missionaries are increasingly aware of God's greatness and faithfulness, even as they have to face their own weaknesses and ongoing sinful tendencies.

There is not enough space here to update you on each PMI Missionary. Check your latest correspondence from them and visit their individual web pages. Like you, we on the PMI Board are regularly encouraged by how God is demonstrating his power through these "jars of clay." Through these useful vessels, God is at work bringing new people into Christ's kingdom, championing the cause of orphans, training servant-leaders, growing churches, and connecting us who are part of his people with his wider work throughout the world.

Yours in Christ,

*J. Nelson Jennings*  
President