

Winter-Spring, 2009-10  
PMI Ministry Update  
J. Nelson Jennings, President

A Tribute to Dr. David Calhoun  
On His Retirement from PMI Responsibilities

Most anyone associated with PMI is aware of the central role that Dr. David Calhoun has played throughout PMI's twenty-plus-year existence. God has used David's international missionary experience, rich historical scholarship, and gospel-driven passion to guide PMI's steadily increasing ministries. In a recent email, here is how David himself summarized his years of service to PMI:

I became a PMI board member shortly after Dr. Rayburn began it. We had one missionary, Khen Tombing. It was my privilege to serve on the board until now, for some years as president. We have seen God bless this work and increase it in ways beyond our wildest expectations. It has been one of the great blessings of my life to serve with you, and the wonderful PMI board members, and our beloved family of PMI missionaries.

David, all of us who know you testify to the great blessing that has been ours in serving with you. Your wit, wisdom, and compassion for PMI folks and those they touch have all been contagious and inspiring.

Many of you know that God has preserved Dr. Calhoun's health through a two-decade battle with cancer – basically throughout the entire span of David's service with PMI. Recent heart complications have added to the time and energy required to deal with his health issues. This is how David has described his current situation:

After much struggle (and prayer) I have decided that I must resign from the PMI board. My medical situation (cancer and ongoing heart rhythm problems) requires much time, with doctor visits or lab or something almost every day and every Monday [when the PMI Board normally meets each month]. These appointments can arise almost any time, which makes it very hard for me to plan ahead. Even though I am feeling better, I still have a ways to go, and think that I need to cut back with a number of activities and responsibilities at this time.

Recognizing Dr. Calhoun's health care challenges, the PMI board has accepted with heartfelt regret and the deepest appreciation his request to resign from the board.

We are assured that God will continue to bless PMI "beyond our wildest expectations." Missionaries, board members, and supporters alike are weak and often unsure of our next feeble steps – all the more so now in the wake of Dr. Calhoun's resignation from the board. God, however, is great and ever intent on working through weak vessels so as to display his glory with increased clarity.

God's faithfulness therefore gives us courage to press ahead. Even so, without Dr. Calhoun participating in our regular board meetings, without him offering his experience in the midst of challenging decisions we face, without him actively overseeing the labors of our missionaries, and without David's steady hand providing an invaluable historical connection with the entirety of PMI's heritage, we are all going to feel a gaping hole in our midst. Dr. David Calhoun – friend, father in the faith, mentor, brother – will be missed terribly. Thankfully he is not far away from those of us based in St. Louis. Thankfully his prayers will continue. Thankfully different ones of us can still contact him in a pinch.

David, I hope you realize just a little bit how much we love and appreciate you. The entire PMI family offers you our sincere thanks, as well as continued love and prayers for you and your dear wife Anne.

With deepest thanks to God for your incalculable service to PMI,

*J. Nelson Jennings*  
President