



World Headquarters

Reaching the nations for Christ

March 2007

**“Come to me, all
who are weary
and burdened,
and I will give
you rest.”**
-Jesus

Greg & Shirley
Carlson

OMS International

World
Headquarters

Dear friends,

John Piper’s book, Don’t Waste Your Life, offers this helpful way to understand what it means to glorify God: You can think of glorify in terms of “magnify,” like the Hubble telescope that magnifies far-off, expansive galaxies, too enormous for the mind to conceive and makes them appear as they really are. Likewise, we magnify God when we make Him look like He really is to others.

God’s word to me in our recent uncertainty in Uruguay was to make God look like He really is to those who observed us. There is no place for anxiously wringing the hands, but a genuine trust in the God who never loses control.

We wrote last November with the unexpected news of our move from Uruguay to Indianapolis with concern for our health. A build-up of stress over these years of crossing cultures finally provoked an emotional exhaustion we could not wisely ignore. Please forgive the lack of details in our initial letter. Though there was cause for concern, the vagueness with which we wrote naturally made some fear we were facing a return of cancer. Thank you to those who have written or called giving evidence to the prayers from so many churches and homes.

After several months of rest, we have both taken assignments at our OMS World Headquarters: Shirley writing and editing a few hours a week with the Communications Department and Greg working fulltime as assistant to the Executive Director for OMS USA and in the International Student Ministries department.

Because our move was unexpected, it was largely unfunded. We experienced marvelous provision from November through January as Christians made special gifts to support our ministry. With the sale of our car in Montevideo, our support account presently has no deficit. God never fails.

Our ministry continues to be faith-supported, funded by financial gifts from people like you. Thank you for your faithfulness before God in allowing us to continue to serve Him reaching the nations for Christ.

A new dream

In March, at the invitation of our Member Care Department, we attended a retreat in Colorado for pastors and missionaries in need of rest and renewal. The children stayed with Greg's brother in Denver and enjoyed a reunion with their cousins.



Micah (9), Madison (6) and Nicholas (5) attend the local public school. We see quite a contrast with the class make-up of all Americans. A few months ago in Uruguay, Madison had classmates from seventeen countries. Tiffany (3) spends a few hours a week at a local church pre-school.

Thank you for praying for us as a couple. We are so grateful to OMS for the support we have received and for the faith the leadership has placed in us and our abilities to serve with headquarters.

In his book, Shattered Dreams, Larry Crab suggests that God allows dreams to shatter so we may dream greater dreams, His dreams. We are excited as we wonder and pray, "What new dream is God giving me?"

Reaching the nations for Christ,

Handwritten signature of Greg & Shirley. The signature is written in black ink and consists of the names 'Greg' and 'Shirley' joined by an ampersand. The 'S' in 'Shirley' is particularly large and loops around the bottom.

"I have never found anything to compare with the morning watch as a source of blessing when one meets God before meeting the world. It is a good thing to speak to Him before we speak to other people, to listen to His Word before we listen to the voices of our fellowmen."

– Lieutenant General Sir William Dobbie

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