



*Because He came to the world, we go to the nations*

*December 2008*

Dear Friends,

I have always found the gospel of John so powerful when reflecting on the significance of the Christmas story.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-14 NIV).*



*With my parents in Romania.*

In Romania, like so many other areas of the world, the true meaning of Christmas can often be long forgotten. Just as the gospel of John states, Jesus was in the world, but the world did not recognize him. He came as a light in the darkness, but the darkness did not understand him. How utterly relevant these poetic words are even today. So much of this world has yet to understand this man we call Jesus.

My prayer for you and for our world is that our vision would not be clouded by the darkness. That we as Christians would not be consumed by what the world has told us Christmas means, but use this special time of the year to bring light into the darkness by sharing Jesus with our family, friends, and children. May the gospel be shared this Christmas season from the ice-covered lakes of Minnesota to the snowcapped Carpathians in Romania and to the far-off islands of Indonesia. And may we all be comforted by the reality that in a world with so many problems and everyone looking for solutions, that JESUS is enough! May HE be the reason for our rejoicing this season.

*Crăciun Fericit și La Mulți Ani!* Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a new year with hundreds of opportunities to share Jesus!

From your “Romaniac,”

Stories and updates: [www.romaniaandmike.blogspot.com](http://www.romaniaandmike.blogspot.com)

Financial contributions: OC International c/o Michael Lundell  
P.O. Box 36900 Colorado Springs, CO 80936 or visit [www.onechallenge.org](http://www.onechallenge.org)

# From the President...

## HOW IS OC DOING?

As we come to the end of 2008, a year which has been marked by tremendous economic turbulence and resultant uncertainty, a number of our ministry partners have been asking how OC is doing. From my vantage point as president of the mission, I would say that overall the mission is doing very well.



Greg Gripenrog  
OC President

- With regard to **the size of the mission**, we currently have over 500 ministry personnel serving with our OC teams around the world. This is the highest number of ministry personnel in the history of the mission!
- With regard to **the ministry of the mission**, on an annual basis, OC missionaries are serving over 2 million church leaders in more than 75 countries around the world! Through the ministries of these leaders, hundreds of thousands of churches are being equipped for more effective outreach in their communities and nations!
- With regard to **the future ministry of the mission**, we currently have numerous strategic ministry opportunities on every continent, and we are planning and praying toward the goal of seeing the mission expand by more than 40 percent over the next three years!
- With regard to **the finances of the mission**, because of God's faithful provision, we were able to finish our fiscal year, which ended on September 30, in the black!

Truly, as a mission we have much for which we are deeply grateful to God, including the 11,000+ individuals, families, and churches who have partnered with us financially during this past year.

Over the course of the past few months, as a mission we have begun to feel the impact of the economic slowdown in the United States, with financial support levels beginning to decrease for many of our missionaries, as well as for the OC General Fund from which we cover a portion of the operating expenses of our Mobilization Center in Colorado Springs.

Because of these harsh economic realities which are impacting a growing number of our ministry partners, I would like to request that you pray about making a special year-end contribution, as the Lord makes possible, to the ministry of the OC missionaries with whom you are partnering. I know that a special year-end contribution from you for their ministry would be a great help and a wonderful encouragement to them.

If, as you pray, the Lord were to also lead you to make a year-end contribution to the OC General Fund, that would be a great blessing and a huge help to the entire mission. Along with this letter, I am enclosing a response card you may use to make this special Christmas contribution to your missionary and/or to the OC General Fund.

May this be an especially meaningful Christmas for you as you celebrate the birth of our wonderful Savior.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Greg Gripenrog". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

The Word became  
flesh and made his  
dwelling among us.  
We have seen his  
glory, the glory of  
the One and Only,  
who came from  
the Father full of  
grace and truth.  
John 1:14

## Our Vision

Healthy  
churches  
working  
together to  
disciple all  
nations.



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