

Dear praying friends,

Nearly seven years ago God closed the door to Venezuela. That was a hard thing to accept. We had so many dreams about church plants in various parts of our city. We had so many good friends. Now looking back we have to say, "thank you Lord for protecting us from what has happened in that country. We still miss our friends but we rejoice in the perfection of God's plan.

Now God is redirecting us again. Many of you know that our finances have been lean for several years. We have been able to make up the shortfall from savings, but our support level is now at a level that is unsustainable. We know that God is in control of everything. The fact that He has allowed this to happen means He must have something else for us to do and this was the only way he could get the message into my stubborn head.

Nikki and I will be resigning as missionaries with Mount Abiram Baptist Mission and seeking a church in the United States. We are praying that God will lead us to an urban church ministry that has fallen on hard times. We do not mind supporting ourselves by working on the side while the church grows.

Nikki and I have kept in communication with Pastor Johnnie Sloan. He is the senior pastor of our sending church in California. Pastor Sloan agreed with us that the timing is right to change ministries. In a few days he will be writing a letter to all of you and I will pass it on (enclosed). Nikki and I both believe that a decision of this magnitude has to be made under the authority of the sending church.

I want to ask each of our supporting churches to consider something. For the past six years we have supported pastor Javier and his amazing family in Peru. He is one of the hardest working church planters I have ever met. His integrity and love of God are unquestionable. We never could have accomplished a fraction of what we have without him. Our sending church is considering transferring the support they were giving us to Pastor Javier. I would like to ask each of you to consider doing the same with all or part of your support. If three or four churches do that, Javier will be able to keep on ministering and will have the work funds he needs to continue.

The church in Lurin is now well established. They will be calling a new senior pastor soon. At that time Javier will be continuing to work in the other church plant projects in Pachacamac and Puente Lurin. In addition, he has a vision for a larger neighborhood called Via Alejandro (that is the next community west from where we use to live in Jose Galvez).

Prayer needs:

- Pray for our friends here that they will not be discouraged by our decision.
- Pray for us because the thought of leaving them hurts as much as it hurts our hearts.
- Pray for us to find the right church. We want to help build up an urban church that is struggling.
- Pray for our finances. Several churches have expressed that they intend to support us through the spring but if it takes more than a month or two to find a church our finances will be tight.
- Pray for the church property. This is the one big thing we are leaving undone. The finances that have been raised are staying in an account in MABMI and will eventually be used to buy property for Good Shepherd through Baptist Mid Missions.

I want to thank everyone who has partnered with us in this ministry over the years. Your prayers and your support have made what we do possible. I will be writing again soon.

In Christ,
The Hodsdons