

Dear Friends of VitW Ministries,

I have hesitated to write this second part of the letter because it is always difficult for me to make an appeal for finances. In fact, it was only after the pressing needs could obviously not be further ignored that I asked Char Yoder to hold sending off the first part of the letter until I could add the following financial appeal.

The work of the ministry is advancing and going well. At this point in time it seems that we are to set aside some of the other directions that we have been heading, and focus at working hard to get the Bible Institute self financing. At the moment there is a little over 12 acres of good land planted into sugarcane at the landsite which the ministry purchased earlier this year. In about a year from now, with God's blessing, we will cut our first harvest. Even with low-balling our figures, it looks like we should be able to clear enough with the first harvest to be able to pay off our loans and the debts which we incurred in order to cultivate and plant this year's crop. This first year has been a major investment for the ministry and our harvest will only just bring us into the black again. However, sugarcane is a perennial crop, and with good care, and God's provision of rain, we should be able to harvest for up to six or more years before replanting becomes necessary. Annual investment will be minimal after this initial plant.

As I have repeatedly mentioned, the goal of this farming project at the present time is to be able to produce a financial base for the Bible Institute whereby they will be able to be freed from the demand for external finances for the ongoing operation of the school.

Beyond simply making good long-term sense financially, this also makes sense both spiritually and emotionally. The ability of the Bible Institute students to be able to work and become self supporting builds character and self dignity as well.

The vision, of course, is not to simply train farmers and agriculturalists, nor is it to simply create a source for self financing for the Institute. The purpose is to train men and women both in the Word of God, as well as in the work of God. I believe that the two are always intertwined, and inextricable.

However, we are running into financial difficulties at the moment, and this brings us back to the point of this letter. The Ministry has some very big financial needs which we do not have any way of meeting without your help.

We have a donated tractor which will make a huge difference in the farm work. It will be brought to the Mexican border by a friend of the ministry. Dan will be donating his time and vehicle in order to do this. We will be paying his expenses. However, the biggest issue is that because of the instability in Mexico it is not safe, or advisable to bring the tractor into the country in any other way than by paying a Mexican transport company to do so. This suddenly adds to the expense of acquiring the tractor.

Further, we are beginning to work with the Mexican government and in cooperation with other small farmers in the area to try to get a water pipeline brought into the area for irrigation. Hydrological studies have shown that this region has a very poor chance of having any water sources for a drilled well. However there are some other options opening for acquiring water – excitingly, in ways which will cause us to be able to work closely with neighboring farmers. This excites me because this will give us a “right” to speak into their lives spiritually as well. However, even with the possibility of some government funding becoming available, and the splitting of costs with other neighboring farmers, the initial costs will be high. But with irrigation we should all be able to look at probably doubling our annual harvest.

There are continual ongoing costs involved with the work. However, with the first harvest we should be able to repay our initial loans, and begin the process towards self-financing. It is the major expenses – such as the need for irrigation, and buildings – which we have no way of handling without outside help.

If you feel God’s tug at your heart to help us meet this practical need then please respond generously. I believe that anyone who has begun any type of business will readily understand the difficult uphill climb during the first year(s). I believe that God will bless this vision, and I believe that it will bring our Mexican brothers and sisters a long way into being able to support their own Bible Institute ministry. But at this point it cannot be done without help.

Donations for the work of *Voice in the Wilderness Ministries* are tax deductible, and can be sent to:

NewSong Church
P.O. Box 451839
Grove, OK 74345

Please make all checks out to “**NewSong Church**” and write “VitW Mexico” in the ‘note’ area of the check.

All donations towards the work are tax receipted yearly for income tax purposes.

May God bless you as you seek him. We continue to need your prayers. Thank you for your love, friendship, and support.

Blessings,

Steven and Theresa

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each gift designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, designated gifts will be used for other similar projects.