



January 2008

Dear Friend,

A new year is always a good time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. It has been a remarkable time for PathLight. Just a year ago we were jokingly calling this new ministry “ONA”, for “our new adventure”! Last summer our mission was still being defined. In September we were trying to get a handle on the scholarship program. Even as recently as late October we were unsure of the name of the organization!

A look back makes apparent how blessed we have been. Good friends have stepped forward and made a tremendous impact. Joe & Judy Rehfeld came up with the inspired name PathLight. Mark and Melody Rhode offered their time and talents to help us think through our mission. Doug Engberg told us about a great graphic designer in Colorado, and our new brochure was completed by Christmas. The good people at Mission Springs Community Church stepped forward with their time, prayer and financial support. And Mark and Cathy Zoradi became the first full scholarship donors, sending us a check almost before we even asked for it.

A list like this could go on and on. The number of conversations we have had with people who want to get involved has been a deep source of encouragement. The prayer of friends and family has been sustaining. The generous response to our December letter has been humbling as we realize how this mission resonates with people. It is clear to all that the fingerprints of God are on this kind of response.

At the core of all this are relationships. With family, friends, our partners in ministry, the people we serve, and with our Lord. That is the essence of ministry, really.

Looking forward we see tremendous opportunities mixed with significant challenges. Our first year of the scholarship program will conclude in June and by September we expect over twice as many kids in the program. The teacher placement program should get a boost as conversations with various university professors jump-start that effort. Adrienne is booking short-term service teams for the Spring, Summer and Fall, all of whom are eager to make an impact. We are actively looking to hire a Belize Program Director, a Hospitality Manager for Jaguar Creek, and a Development Director for PathLight. We may even hire a teacher placement coordinator this year.

All of this activity makes me want to stop and reflect on why we do all of this. It helps anchor the work in the real meaning and purpose. Often there will be something my friends have said or written that will trigger such a reflection. For instance, my friend Chris Hoeckley recently wrote, “We live in complex

times. Broad cultural awareness is as necessary for day-to-day life in our neighborhoods as it is for global relations. Stewardship of the natural world takes solid scientific and economic knowledge paired with deep ethical concern. Careful analysis of information and critical judgment are vital to effective political engagement. More than ever, we need education for complexity. We also live in fragmented times. Work, family, community, leisure, even church, compete for our attention rather than weaving together into a whole life. Education, when seen as relevant only to our professional lives, just worsens the splintering. More than ever, we need education for wholeness.”

This is one of the things PathLight is trying to do. Although Chris works at an esteemed Christian college in wealthy North America, the same truth applies to a village in Central America. Complexity and fragmentation are not unique to our North American culture. And even though the solutions may have unique cultural applications, the truth of the statement stands: a 14-year old from a rural village in a developing country still needs an education for wholeness.

At PathLight, we’re trying our best to make that possible. The challenges are daunting at times, but then that is what makes the work so rewarding.

Thank you for making all of this possible. Your contribution of prayer, time, energy or finances has been a blessing. Most of all, it has made a difference in the lives of the children being served. It may take some time to see the tangible results, but the results are there. There really is hope through faith and learning.

Blessings,

Roy Goble