



Christian Emergency Relief Teams
Saving Lives & Healing Hearts since 1974

September 25, 2006

Dear Friend of CERT,

In John 4:35b Jesus said, ***“I tell you the truth, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”*** The fields are indeed ripe for harvest! I have seen it myself. Let me share with you how the Lord continues to use CERT in that great harvest.

I want to share two stories to illustrate how God works in people’s lives to gather in the harvest. These are stories from cultures a world apart.

One is about a young lady who lives in Canada. She has had a burning desire in her heart to serve Jesus in the Amazon Jungle of Peru.

The other story is about a young man in the Amazon Jungle who didn’t feel a need for Jesus.

Sarah Doucet was 11 years old when some missionaries from Peru came to her church. As the missionaries spoke, God whispered to her that night, ***“I want you to be a missionary in Peru.”*** Sarah thought, ***“Who me? Are you sure, Lord?”*** For over nine years Sarah has prayed for an opportunity to minister in Peru.

That prayer was answered in June of this year. Sarah, now a nursing student, went with a CERT team to minister in the Amazon Jungle. Her testimony follows:

“Our trip was amazing. We saw hundreds of patients. I got to practice my nursing skills and my Spanish. I felt the Holy presence and majesty of God in the jungle. I fell in love with the people, the children, and especially one village. I saw tribal Indians open their hearts to the love of Christ. These were precious people that I had prayed for these past nine years. I was deeply moved seeing God at work in their lives.

I don’t know what God has planned in the future for me, but I do know that God can use me in Peru. That confidence amazes and humbles me. I am now waiting for His call. I know that when it comes, the only thing I can do is answer with a resounding ‘YES’ and then hang on for the ride.” – Psalm 37:4-5

Sarah met the young man in the second story. Estaban was our boat pilot. He is a carefree and likeable guy, but he didn’t know Jesus. For over four years Estaban has served as pilot of CERT’s boat. CERT staff, and team members, have witnessed to Estaban, prayed for him, and demonstrated the love of Jesus. He would listen politely, even attend the morning team devotions and prayer times, but he did not feel he needed Jesus.

In July, the same mission that Sarah was on, the CERT Team leader, Bruce Rainwater, had the joy of leading Estaban in prayer inviting Jesus to be his personal Lord and Savior. Estaban announced to the team that on the next CERT mission to the jungle in November, he wants to be baptized in the Madre de Dios River, the very river on which he has transported so many CERT teams.

After years of faithful witnessing and the sharing of God’s Word, the seed was lovingly nurtured and Estaban became a part of the harvest.

Folks, these two stories illustrate what your partnership with CERT is accomplishing. You are making it possible for CERT to fulfill our Lord’s Great Commission and to reap a bountiful harvest. Were it not for your prayers and generous giving there would not have been a CERT team for Sarah to answer God’s call to her some nine years ago.

Had it not been for your faithful prayers and support there would not have been CERT teams faithfully witnessing to Estaban for these past four to five years.

These are only two stories from one mission and in one place. From these past 18 years with CERT, I could share dozens and dozens of stories like these...from the Amazon Jungle, the Andes Mountains, Romania, Mexico, Honduras, China, India and so many other areas.

Dear friends, let me hasten to say, **“This is not about us! It’s not about CERT! It is about our LORD! It is about YOU, our partners in ministry.”** It is your prayers and faithful support that makes it possible. We are simply an avenue for YOUR ministry to hurting people in our world.

Hardly a week goes by that I do not get a request from some part of the world asking if CERT will help. The only thing that keeps us from responding is that **we need more faithful friends like you to partner with us.** That is the reason I have asked you to share with your friends, relatives, church, Bible study groups, and others what God is doing through YOUR ministry with CERT.

2006 was a record breaking year for CERT. We sent more teams than any time in CERT’s 32 year history. We had a record number of CERT team volunteers. We ministered to more people than ever before. We saw more people respond to the Gospel. We had a record number of requests for help.

While we rejoice over what the Lord has done and give Him the glory for it all, the truth is it has stretched us financially. The small emergency fund is dwindling month by month. **I am faced with tough decisions: “Do I curtail some of our operations? And yet, God continues to open more doors. Do I cut back on projects like drilling water wells in the jungle? Or starting churches? Or supporting pastors in need? Do I reduce the size and number of our medical teams?”** In my heart I cannot believe that God would have us do less.

I share this with you to ask you to pray. Ken Daugherty is not CERT. You really are CERT...You make it all possible...and I owe it to you to share the victories, challenges and needs...so that you might pray.

May I be so bold as to ask you to prayerfully give an extra gift this month? And extra gift of \$10, \$15, \$25, \$100, \$1,000.

Someone sent me a note that said I was getting too pushy. I don’t mean to be pushy. I would never ask you to do more than what the Lord puts on your heart. But at the same time the Bible says, ***“You have not because you ask not.”*** So, I simply share my heart and the need and whatever the Lord puts on your heart is all I would ever ask or expect.

You have been a faithful friend and partner and I thank God for you. Your prayers are vital. Your generous giving is needed. Telling others about CERT is crucial.

Together we plant seeds and together, as PARTNERS, we REAP THE HARVEST!

Rejoicing in His Service,

Dr. Ken Daugherty
President

**P.S. Our funds have dipped dramatically this summer.
The need is great. Thank you for responding today.**