

# RIPE *for Harvest*

WORLD OUTREACH

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## October 2019 Ministry Update

Dear Friends & Family,

This month we have LOTS TO SHARE—especially about another major **TIME OF TRANSITION** in our lives and ministry. But first... I want to express **what a blessed man I am!** The picture to the right is from the celebration of our 11<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! What a daily joy and comfort it is to share life with a Godly, intelligent, sensitive, and caring partner—and to share our journey together! **A very Happy Anniversary to my wise and beautiful wife!**

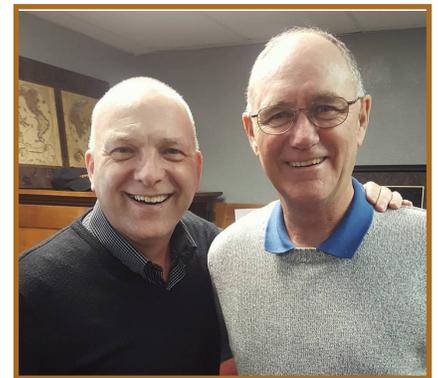


Secondly... Tannia and I want to express our deep gratitude to those of you who have reached out to us concerned over the **recent violence and protest taking place in Quito, Ecuador**. Tannia's mom and sisters reside just a few blocks from where some of the most violent demonstrations were taking place. They were pretty much trapped in their apartment for a week or so, and it looked as though they may run out of food and water before the protests ended. However, we are pleased to report that peace has resumed, at least for a time. In fact, **Tannia's mom, Sara, has now joined us in Tucson** and will be staying with us through the holidays.

Your continued prayers for Ecuador are needed—as well as for Haiti. The school that I am assisting in Port-Au-Prince with leadership development has **only be able to conduct 10 days of classes** so far this year due to the ongoing violence and instability. Please keep praying for Quisqueya Christian School!

Now on to some **BIG NEWS** and updates about us and our future ministry. But first... a little history.

As most of you reading this update will remember, back in late 2016 we left our ministry and work in Ecuador for Tucson, AZ so that I could take up the position of Headmaster at Desert Christian Schools (DCS). My predecessor at DCS, John O'Hair (pictured right), had successfully served for twenty years; 14 as Headmaster. He was beloved and concluded his time at the school in a very gracious manner. I personally developed a very quick bond and friendship with him as we worked side-by-side for several months of transition my first year.



Frequently in Christian schools (and in churches), when a long-term and beloved leader or pastor retires or takes another post, the individual who follows them has a very difficult time establishing themselves in a way that results in another long-term leadership tenure. In fact, that was the greatest concern I expressed to the DCS Board of Trustees back in 2016 when they invited us to make the move.

Typically whoever follows a long-term leader is an "interim" leader. Regardless, we accepted the call and it has been a tremendous experience. But, as predicted, **it has been an "interim" role.**

With mutual agreement of the DCS Board of Trustees, **I am concluding my time this month as Headmaster.** We believe I have done what I was able to in order to position the school for the future, but it is now time for me to step aside.

We have made some dear friendships with DCS families, faculty, and staff. Pictured on the left is a recent family outing with Dr. Brad and Cheryl Hoyt. Brad oversees the educational services program at DCS and has become a true brother.





I am very proud of the DCS faculty and staff and what we have been able to accomplish over the past 3 years. Let me share with you just **a few of the written comments shared with me this past week in cards received from dozens of our DCS team members** at an appreciation event:

*"Dr. Travis, Thank you for seeing the significance and importance of early education!"*

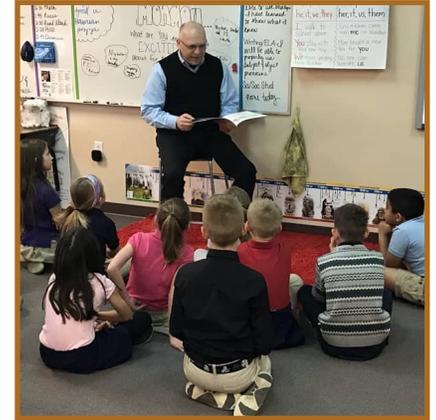
*"Dr. T., Thank you for all the passion and excitement for education you brought to DCS and for showing us how to love and educate ALL learners and to see them how Christ sees them."*

*"Thank you dear Travis Family! Your love, joy, and zeal for Christ will continue to have an impact!"*

*"You inspired me to pursue excellence. I am a better teacher because of you. You instilled a love for learning in me and I will always be thankful for you!"*

*"Words can hardly begin to describe the blessing it has been to have served under your leadership. Your guidance and support have uplifted me during challenges and encouraged me to be the best teacher I can be. Thank you for seeking God in all things, putting teachers first, and building this school up to be a place where intentional learning and joyful relationships take place daily."*

*"You are such an advocate for diversity and special needs on our campuses and I am so appreciative of that. Thanks for always being an encourager!"*



*"Toby, Thank you for the generous and gracious time you have given to me. I was blessed by our time together! Thanks for your investment in me and our school."*

*"Thank you for your passion, wisdom and commitment to our school, and the contribution you and Tannia have poured into the staff, students, and parents."*

*"Thank you for your vision for DCS and for leading in courageous ways!"*

These testimonies and others were so encouraging to us—but it is only by God's grace and favor that all of this took place over just three short years. Praise God!



**S**o, what is next for the Travis family and our ministry? We are not completely sure! ☺ What we are sure of is that where God leads, God provides! Our passion and desire remains in

Christian Education—and especially in supporting, mentoring, and assisting those school leaders and teachers who are ministering in developing countries or in distressed environments. For several decades now, each year I have **volunteered a portion of my time and talents to assist Christian school ministries in over 20 countries of the world**. That has only been possible through the generous donations and prayerful support of folks like you. In the past, there has not been sufficient financial support for that ministry to be a full-time endeavor. We would like to explore that possibility now. To do so, we need to raise an additional \$7,000 per month. Yes, we know **that's a BIG number—but we serve a BIG God!**

Please pray with us to see if God would provide the means for us to serve as missionaries in a full-time capacity; **allowing us to pour all of our efforts** into mentoring, training, and developing effective Christian school leaders and teachers in some of the most challenging areas of the world? Next month we will share more details of where and how we believe God is leading us. In the mean-time, please know our deep and sincere appreciation for you, your friendship, and your care for our family and ministry.

Yours for Christ, - Toby (for Tannia and Emma too!)





Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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- I/We would like to make a Faith Promise of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per (circle one) Month / Quarter / Year.
- Please check the box to receive information on how to set up secure and automatic electronic funds transfers. Thank you!

*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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