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Dear Brother Stone and friends at Camp Creek Baptist Church, July 17, 2017

Greetings in Jesus. I trust this letter finds you well and rejoicing in the Lord's goodness.

For many years you have supported our ministry. **We will never be able to adequately express our thanks for your faithful prayers and generosity.** Even after Joyce became too ill to stay in the Amazon and other churches began terminating our support, you continued. You are a blessing.

From **1985 to 1988** we served in Brazil by teaching in a school for missionaries' children. Of necessity, we returned to the U.S., and during the next seven years we were involved in ministering to inner-city people in Indianapolis and then Christian Education in South Carolina.

In 1995, the Lord made it possible for us to go back to Brazil for a ministry of church planting and discipleship in the interior. **We were on the field from 1997 to 2014**, and we still hold permanent resident status in Brazil.

Since we returned to the USA in 2014, I have served as **pulpit supply** in several churches and as **guide and translator** for overseas mission trips. In September and October of 2016, I served as **station supply** for a missionary family **in Mongolia**. Since January 1, 2017, I have been serving as **Missionary Interim Pastor** at Refuge Baptist Church in Cumming, Georgia, where I am helping them find candidates to be the permanent pastor.

Joyce and I have been approached by **Gospel Fellowship Association Missions** to participate in a special program to help needy churches and missionaries, and I need to talk to you about it and seek your input. Gospel Fellowship Association (GFA) was started in 1939 by Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. It is a **fundamental, baptistic board** with over 250 missionaries in 35 countries.

In recent years, GFA has received many requests for help from **American churches** that have fallen on hard times. The Board has **developed a program** to provide experienced couples to serve on an interim basis to help stabilize the church, provide solid leadership, organize a pulpit committee, and guide them through the process of calling a new pastor. When the job is done, the GFA couple receives a new assignment. It is somewhat like being a perpetual Interim Pastor.

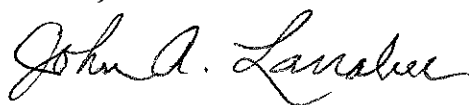
The need is acute, and GFA receives more requests than they can attend. They currently have six couples serving in this capacity, and **the leadership believes that we would be a good fit** for this position. In addition, since we have overseas experience, we would be available for temporary station supply for missionaries in many parts of the world.

This will not be a salaried position, and Joyce will no longer be teaching, so we will need an increase in our support to a realistic level. This will be a major change, so I am writing you with three requests. 1) **Please pray** for our decisions as we move forward. 2) **Please consider** continuing our support if we go with GFA. 3) **Please pray** for us as we contact other churches. We cannot take the time for traditional deputation – we are needed now, and we do not think it would be wise at our age to take out two years for fund raising. **God has never let us down before, and He will not now.**

We praise the Lord that **Joyce's health** has rebounded to where she can work and travel. She cannot ever again live in the Amazon region on a long-term basis, but for a short-term she appears to be able to visit or live anywhere. We have both completed successful cataract surgeries and have **recently passed full physical exams with flying colors**. Neither of us requires any medications other than vitamins and minerals, and most of Joyce's dietary allergies seem to be going away! **We are ready to do the job.**

Please pray and think over what I have shared. **I plan to call you in the next week** or so to receive your response. Thank you for your time and consideration, and may God continue to bless your service for Him.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Larrabee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "In Christ," text.

John and Joyce Larrabee