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Sent Through The
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Dear Pastors and Friends,

I would like to start this letter with a big "Thank you!" I appreciate your continued support as I have been seeking God's guidance for the next step in my ministry. I have been greatly enjoying some time with my home church, receiving much needed spiritual meat. I have also had the opportunity to serve in one of the Good News Clubs that goes to a nearby public school once a week. We had a Bible story, Bible songs, verses, games, and snacks. I have also been attending our Reformers Unanimous meetings on Friday nights. If you have never heard of Reformers Unanimous, it is a program to help people overcome addictions by encouraging a deep relationship with God. (In case you are worried, I do not have an addiction problem. I wanted to see the program in action. I have found it to be a GREAT help in strengthening my relationship with God.) If you know of an RU program near you, I encourage you to attend, whether you have a problem with addictions or not. It just might help strengthen you, as well.

Now for some good news! I believe God is leading me to work with Danny and Michelle Jones on the Texas border. As many of you know, I worked with the Jones' in Monterrey, Mexico for 2 years, after which we both left Mexico because of the escalating dangers. The Jones' have been in McAllen, Texas starting a work among the people there. They started "from scratch" and now have a ministry with an average of around 69 on Sunday mornings. I will be going to assist them with their children's ministries (in fact, I have already been asked to organize VBS for this summer), ladies ministries, music ministries, and whatever else they need help with. I spent about a week in December with them in McAllen, and we discussed my coming. When Bro. Danny was telling me about the culture, many aspects reminded me of the culture in Croatia. The culture is unique at the border. It is not the culture of Mexico, nor is it the culture of America. It is it's own distinctive culture. I believe God has been preparing me to help in this ministry. I learned to speak Spanish fluently in Mexico, and I learned how to work in a similar culture in Croatia. I look forward to working there with much anticipation.

I will also be starting a second ministry among churches in America, and eventually other countries. The LORD has greatly burdened me about helping churches with their children's ministries. I am hoping to be able to give seminars in churches on "Effectively Teaching Children the Gospel." These seminars will include practical teaching tips/helps, a focus on teaching children the doctrines of the Bible (something I think all teachers need improvement on...including myself), materials to help, Bible review games/how to use them, and how to present the gospel to children. I am preparing materials now, but this ministry

will take time to prepare. I am currently studying several books to add to my experience, and will begin shortly preparing the seminar notes, Bible Doctrine aids, as well as Bible review games I hope to have available for teachers. I don't expect to be ready to begin the seminars until towards the end of the year, but I will keep you updated, and will include pictures when I have some to share.

I will be contacting my supporting churches to see if you would like me to come and give an update in the near future. If any pastors would like me to come, or have questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone (817)395-2553 (please leave a message if you don't get an answer). My pastor would also be happy to answer any questions. You can contact him at the church number (817)534-0787.

In Christ,

Melissa Houston



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