



*Forging Tomorrow's Urban Leaders ... Today*

Christmas, 2005

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

**I Cor. 8:9**

Dear Friends,

From our living room (which now sits two stories above ground), gazing through glass balcony doors, I often find myself studying the pictures on the Deep Rock building across the street that capture scenes from Five Points' rich cultural past. The "ding-ding" and sight of poles moving across suspended wires tells us another light rail train is passing by. Spanning the horizon stand the majestic snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains.

You guessed it: Shelly and I have moved into our new home. Shelly loves condo life; I love it too, although still adjusting to the smaller, newer, more efficient space.

I think I will remember 2005 as a year of transformation. Obviously ministry is all about changed lives, and we witness a measure of that each year. But this year was different. Somehow the changes were more striking, more noticeable, at least to me.

### ***Emerging Leaders***

Last year the chasm between the stature of the Summer Program high school youth staff compared to those in Harambee became too great to ignore. So we made a bold move: we reshaped the high school club into an emerging leaders program.

It proved to be a challenging yet rewarding transition. The character of the group has changed. Last week, when asked how the move has impacted them, they said: "I'm learning patience" ... "I've become a better leader" ... "I've gotten better organized". Morning discussions have become increasingly frank, honest and vigorous. Relationships are getting stronger, leadership confidence is increasing, and their understanding of and love for Jesus is growing.



**Elementary Harambee Staff & Kids**

### ***Raquel & Summer Program***

When I was a baby Christian, Pastor Mathews said something I would never forget: "Right now you're leaning on me, and that's good, but a day is coming when you will mature; I look forward to serving God with you then." I have embraced this expectation as my own, and it brings great joy when it is fulfilled.

What a privilege to witness years of growth, training and experience culminate into an exciting moment of ministry! This summer Raquel's leadership skills seemed to peak. She ran every phase of the Summer Program with a quiet confidence and joyful spirit that can only be attributed to God's work in her life. Watching her along with the emerging leaders filled my heart with joy.

### ***Honduras & El Salvador***

There were many highlights, but my favorite involves one of our emerging leaders. On a day the team was building a house, I wrote in my journal:

*Skye was a study. Sometimes she would sit down and brood; she really wanted to complain, but the others kept on encouraging her. At one point, though, she came to where I was sitting and said: "I built that whole wall. The only part I didn't do was the top part because it was too high." I affirmed her: "Good for you, Skye!" Then as she left I heard her say: "I did something." That moved me. As if to affirm herself, she said: "I did something."*

And she hasn't stopped. Skye continues to play a vital role in our ministry.

### ***Family***

Shelly felt a great burden lifted when we moved – no more yard work or flower gardening (all the stuff I enjoyed but never managed!). Downsizing has made life simpler. And empty nesting is really a lot of fun!

Thankfully our children are nearby – we see them weekly, if not more. Weston is currently working for the RTD bus company. Heather landed a government job answering phones for the US Postal Service and continues to slowly work her way through college at Metro State. Scotty is gaining seniority at UPS in the hopes of working on their diesel trucks. Upstaging them all these days is our three year-old granddaughter Abriana: she is an absolute delight.



**Ted & Shelly  
Pappeturro, El Salvador  
Summer, 2005**

### ***Thank You!***

I've experienced change as well. Ministry is as challenging as ever, but I've never been more at peace. I'm still madly in love with the girl I married almost 25 years ago. I have a mission and purpose that makes me glad to get up every morning. I can sing again. And I have great friends.

Perhaps what's grown is my capacity for appreciation and wonder. I don't think I've ever been more excited about life and ministry. And I've never appreciated more the wonderful friends God has given us.

So thank you. Our lives are enriched because of you. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. Have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

By His Grace,

*Ted & Shelly*