

Dave & Bonnie

LAMBERT

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

The steamer trunk sits where I cannot help but notice it every day, as I wanted it to have a place of prominence in our house. It is large; I cannot imagine moving it when it was full. The two leather handles, one on each end, are still intact. The

brass corners and oak ribbing still offer a measure of protection, while the two metal clasps and two hinges used to lock it are still workable, although if you were to open it you would quickly realize that the days of its intended use were over many years ago. There are still bills of lading from past journeys glued to its side, though most have faded with the passage of time. The name stenciled boldly

in white paint identify the owner, a man who many years ago answered a call to take his family to places he had only heard about, to share with people he had yet to meet the gospel message that he had come to love. That man was Russel M. Lambert, my father's father, my grandfather.

The decision to answer the call and step out in faith came to a most unlikely person at an unlikely time. He only had a seventh-grade education with no formal Bible training; and on top of this, the mission agencies he approached told him he was too old to start an adventure like this having

already celebrated his 41st birthday. Added to that, the year was 1943 and the world was at war. It would take special permission from the U.S. government for him to even leave the country. Yet he was undeterred. His passion had

been flamed by all-night prayer meetings, seeking the Lord, and stories of men and women who had never placed their faith in, let alone even heard of, the Savior they so desperately needed. He counted the cost, packed his steamer trunk, boarded a ship, and stepped out in faith with his wife and two small children in tow.

I keep the steamer trunk where I can see it as a visible

reminder of the cost of the gospel message. For six hard years my grandparents endured sickness, separation, several coups, hunger, and a lack of finances in South America that would have made most people pack and head back to family and friends, to what was familiar, what was comfortable.

They stayed though. They learned the language, my grandfather riding a bike from village to village, often preaching at night, the only time when the people were available to listen. He memorized whole books of the Bible so he could teach in the dark. The gospel was worth it to him, every sacrifice, every hardship.



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I see the steamer trunk in the morning as I sit and read. I have often prayed for faith like my grandparents. A faith that fans a passion where mine falters. A faith that counts the cost and then presses forward, knowing that people are worth it, that the gospel message is worth it. A visible example for me of a faith-filled life well spent.

Through all of this, they have counted the cost and remained.

While most missionaries now fly rather than take ships, pack suitcases and duffle bags rather than steamer trunks, I am blessed to work with a team of Cadence men and women on the Asia field who have counted the cost and pressed forward. Their sacrifices have become even more evident with the COVID-19 restrictions they have had to deal with. Some have children they have yet to be able to

introduce to grandparents. Some have sent off college-age children not knowing when they would be able to see them in person again. Some have missed funerals of loved ones, even parents. They have endured ministries being shut down, needing to think creatively about how to still share the gospel message with the people they have come to love.

Through all of this, they have counted the cost and remained. I am proud of this team and humbled that I get to call them friends. They have experienced the cost and determined the gospel message worth it. I think my grandfather would be proud of them as well, and nod his approval of people who continue to step out in faith because the gospel continues to be worth all that we have to offer no matter the sacrifice.

Keeping the steamer trunk in view,
Dave and Bonnie Lambert



Cadence
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Dave & Bonnie Lambert
Partnership Involvement

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- I will pray for the Lamberts
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- I have enclosed a special gift: \$ _____
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