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Dear Friends and Family,

I want to thank you for your prayers and continued interest in the ministry that God called me to 55 years ago as a student at Biola, starting in January 1970, when I signed up with OAC as my “Christian service assignment.” It has been quite a ride since! As you know, health issues led me to consider retirement, but the wise counsel I received from trusted mentors has caused me to reconsider. I recall the 1970s, when Corrie Ten Boom, who was at a similar stage of life to mine, was introduced in our church. When asked if she was going to retire, her reply was “Only cars retire!” I have never forgotten her statement. Let me share some encouragement that I have received from the Lord, which has shown me that thoughts of retirement might be premature, through some encouraging events that have happened recently.

** **Some good news regarding my health***, as recent blood tests have encouraged the doctors to reduce my RA medication. Pray that this disease will go into remission! Secondly, upcoming surgery on my eyelids may improve my eyesight, which currently limits my driving and other activities.

** **Open-air ministry*** has also been encouraging. Another lady has joined us in the Townsend St ministry. She is very good at working with kids, to the extent that more kids are coming. I was also encouraged to see that I was able to lead two people to the Lord this past Friday at Seal Beach Pier. In separate conversations, a 14-year-old boy and a young lady in her early 20s made firm decisions for Christ! The fact that God was still using me to lead others to Himself was a special encouragement to me, as it shown me that He was not withdrawing me from active ministry.

** **Another encouragement came*** when I was able to attend the OAC staff conference in March. It was a joy to see our ministry expanding not only in this country, but around the world. It was fun meeting the new staff who have joined the team, as well as seeing old friends. I felt like I was still part of this work and not just an old icon being dusted off for public viewing.

Thank you so much for your faithful giving and prayers! Pray that I may continue serving the Lord faithfully until He calls me home. God bless each and every one of you!

Russ Hodder

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