

Disambiguation: Light on the sometimes-confusing subject of our life

"... and then we spent some time in Miami debriefing the trip with our boss, Ric ..."

"What? You have a boss?" Neals interrupted our travelogue. He looked incredulous.

"Yeah ... Well, now that we're not in Mexico, Ric isn't actually our boss, but since he is the area director for Latin America our work there is under him. While we're living in the U.S. our monthly reports go to someone at headquarters ..."

The fine points of OC's organizational structure were obviously of no interest to Neals, so the conversation moved on. But his reaction made us wonder how many people see us as enigmatic loose cannons.



Our life is undeniably unconventional ... sometimes overwhelming and constantly amazing. We can't believe that we get to spend the days of our lives focused on transcendent relationships and projects. We are astounded that through the ParaLideres.org website we can help hundreds of thousands of youth leaders each month. We are humbled that this year alone we've spoken to over 1,500 leaders who came from almost every Spanish-speaking country on the continent. We're excited that two more ministries, one in Peru and one in Argentina, are now using our youth ministry textbook and animated classes in their leadership training.

We are very aware of the fact that you make this possible. We are grateful for the administrative framework and guidance OC provides, but we feel primarily accountable to the individuals and churches who support us financially, emotionally, and spiritually. We believe you should know what we are doing with our time and the resources you entrust to us.

Because we wanted you to understand that we are still missionaries even though our address is in the U.S., we have called our time here a "working furlough." However since the word "furlough" communicates a leave of absence, a vacation, or time spent fund raising, we now realize that we have misled you. We are not on leave, on vacation, or visiting supporters.

Since we drove into Orlando in March we have spent two and a half months outside the U.S. working (and that's not counting the time spent preparing for and doing follow-up for those trips). We have had international ministry partners stay with us in Orlando throughout another five and a half weeks. And we are continually maintaining the networks and projects related to the resources and training we provide.

We haven't found a term that adequately communicates the reality of our life, but we want you to have a clear picture of it. We want you to know that the funds sent to OC for our ministry are spent exclusively for the standard OC salary and benefits package and for providing resources and training for youth leaders in Latin America.

Hope that leaves you less, not more, confused.

Annette & Tim

