

Investigation Report

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We, as part of the team of the MTO and ALTECO leadership team, understand the importance of good on-the-ground information. You can only hit a target if you know where it is located. We are working to improve the productivity and oversight of Drake. We have folded Javier in to be the one asking for projects to be done on behalf of the MTO. Javier asked Drake to do a simple update to our database, and he did, for the most part, complete the task. We have also ensured that he has the tools to do his job effectively. We purchased a mapping software that will allow Drake to involve the MTO team on a deeper level and be a visual tool for the team. Drake has been asked to connect with Brazil's research team to facilitate better research collaboration. He and Javier met with them once via Zoom and made plans for future meetings. The idea is to have everyone use the same language and measurements for their and our research. We asked him to respond to 5 questions, and here are his responses. To give the board an understanding of where Drake and his family are now. Drake was scheduled to travel to Brazil with the EC of ETO for CONPLEI's 32nd anniversary and to connect with the Brazilian research team, but this trip was canceled due to the failing health of Drake's mom and a lack of financing.

These are the questions we asked Drake and his responses.

1. How did the fundraising coaching go, and did it benefit you?

We received coaching for both transitioning and for fundraising. The first helped us frame our overall situation from the standpoint of life "transition" as we settled into a new ministry home base. From there, we could then determine a strategy to address our unsustainable financial circumstances. The fundraising coaching provided helpful "theoretical" concepts. As time goes on our realities of balancing on-going ministry with new difficulties related to my mom's health (and assisting my dad as he cares for her - while he has his own health struggles), the proposed action steps have been hard to implement consistently and effectively enough to produce any benefit. We do not discredit the value of the fundraising coaching; however, we find ourselves in a new season of yet more transition now caring for our ailing parents.

2. Do you have the tools you need to move forward productively?

I have basic tools for conducting open-source (non-subscription based) research / coordination via the Internet while creating databases and maps using open-source (freely available) desktop software. While great from a financial standpoint, oftentimes "free and open source" implies more time spent developing workaround solutions to avoid the costs of proprietary software. The online "Mango Map" subscription, paid for by ALTECO and which I am developing, is a wonderful exception to this. I am certain that over the long term it will improve our teams' ability to access and update information.

3. How is it splitting your time between two organizations, and is it long-term manageable?

While working between two entities can be challenging at times, this arrangement is financially necessary for us to afford ongoing involvement in vocational ministry. We are grateful that the leadership of ALTECO and Gospelink remain flexible for when I need to travel for either ministry roles. As this arrangement appears to be the only viable one for us at this time, we continue to seek the Lord's help to ensure it works for the foreseeable future.

4. Your role on the ETO and as Research Coordinator is valued, but with your ministry funds low, how do you foresee funding your ministry travel to participate in key in-person events?

I understand the importance of participating in ministry travel for my role with the ETO and as Research Coordinator. I understand too the value of fellowship and the encouragement resulting from those times when our team members meet in person. Currently however, our ministry fund levels and my mom's health crisis may prevent me from being able to participate in every in-person event. We value the team's input to help me prioritize events that require my presence. As we plan and evaluate travel costs, we ask the Lord's wisdom to help us allocate available resources to achieve the greatest impact.

5. We have watched your family weathering many storms, and you are constantly in our prayers. How are you doing with balancing your family's health and ministry responsibilities? Do you have any concerns? Also, please share any suggestions for how we can support you.

This has certainly been a challenging season for us. Our desire is to honor the Lord in all matters of family and ministry; however, while "weathering these storms" we often feel incapable of exceling in aspects of both. We ask the Lord to multiply our efforts and what little we may have at times to give. We value your prayers that our eyes may remain fixed on Christ, and that He would be our strength.

Grace and care for our co-laborers must be one thing that marks us as an organization, but we also need to evaluate Drake's situation and role in ALTECO. Drake has been a part of this team for a long time and has an incredible knowledge base of the people groups in South America. Drake has stabilized his family's monthly support but has no reserve for ministry expenses such as travel. We understand that it is harder to raise funds for research, and as executives and board, we need to discuss whether we, as ALTECO, raise funds for research projects. We plan to walk alongside Drake and give him more direction on tasks. Ecuador will be the following country he focuses on. It is much smaller, with 14 or so people groups in total. We also have people in place (including an active country coordinator - Jonathan Pifer), to connect him to good information. This will be an excellent case study to see if he can function in his role. Truthfully we are in a season of evaluation to determine if Drake can be effective as part of the ALTECO/MTO team. Some adjustments may need to be made, like asking him to step down from his role on the ETO to free up his time for vital research. We are open to creative solutions and candid conversations. We know that God will lead and give us wisdom.