



Issue #130  
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# Compelled to GO

**JUST SO YOU KNOW ---- we have LOTS of important news to share with you, so please bear with us as we try to cover a long five months since our last letter. We think you'll like what you read.**

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

First, it was an incredibly busy schedule, – then it was a computer crash, – then it was finding a place to buy a new computer, – then it was waiting on hard drive back up and repair, – then it was mail wait time, – then it was travel home, – then it was getting settled in after being gone almost six months, . . . and now it is trying to work on an old computer with old word processing software! **And that's our story . . . and we're sticking to it!** Now that that's our of our system, where do we start!?!?!?! Let's recap & share some major developments:

## Five+ Months in Greer:

Leaving home on May 10<sup>th</sup> towing our Passport Keystone to live in, we took a less traveled & stressful route to Greer, stopping in Dodge City, KS, Tucumcari, NM, and Grants, NM, arriving in the tiny mountain town of Greer on May 13<sup>th</sup>, & spent the next two weeks adjusting to the 8,500 feet altitude, stocking up on groceries, meeting with Greer Chapel leaders, going to ministry orientation in Snowflake, and preparing for our first service.

Our first service was Memorial Day Sunday. The previous year there were only a little over a dozen who came, so we were thrilled when 33 showed up. That was the last time we had less than 40 until the end of the season in October. There are about 35 families and singles who come and go throughout the Summer, and in spite of weekly turnovers, we saw several Sundays with attendance in the high 50's to mid 60's. Because of enthusiasm by both Chapel folks and locals, we expect the attendance to dramatically increase next year.



Sunday Worship Services



Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study



Friday Afternoon Mexican Train

Each week included Sunday morning worship, Monday women's Bible study, Wednesday prayer & Bible study, Thursday morning men's prayer breakfast, & Friday afternoon Mexican Train on Harriet Boehm's front porch. On alternating weeks we also went to Snowflake for a leadership meeting and to Show Low to have lunch with Jo Ann's sister and brother-in-law, Dot and Bill Hutchison. Then, of course, add numerous "restaurant ministries" and all the stuff going on in the MountainAire RV park family, most of who are long timers. BUSY!

Greer Chapel is the only "church" in town, so it's important to both locals and "valley" folks escaping triple digit temps in places like Yuma, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Dallas, and so forth. We have been asked to return indefinitely, so plan to go back in May to serve a wonderful group of people from many church backgrounds – Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Pentecostal, Bible, – an endless list.

By the end of September most folks had gone home, but we met for two Sundays in October in an informal "house church" setting with good worship, Bible study, fellowship, – and food, of course. We then took our Passport to Tucson to store at some friends. We'll say more about that trip under "The Future". While there

we stayed with Greer Chapel friends Dave and Eva Bennett in their lovely home not far from Reddington Pass between the Catalina and Rincon Mountain ranges. It was like being in a quiet hideaway in the foothills.

We also visited our niece Kathy & hubby, Jeff. The Bennett's also hosted a cook-out for the Greer Chapel folks from the Tucson area, & several were able to attend, including former Chapel pastor Carl & Keico Hogue who, we learned to our surprise, had known Bob's father many years ago when they were still pastoring in Tucson.

One of our special joys was to visit services at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Baptist Church where we met in 1957, & then to speak at the senior adult monthly luncheon about the earliest days of the Church. They celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary next March. It was an emotional & meaningful experience to walk through the buildings & recall the countless memories. Since Jo Ann's family helped start the church as charter members & Bob's father was its first fulltime pastor, and that was where we were married, the church was a very special part of our lives.

FYI, Bob will be preparing some albums for public viewing on his Facebook page. Look for "2016 - Greer" to see several albums with lots of pix. He's going to post them as "public" so you should have no problem accessing them at the following website – [https://www.facebook.com/bob.tolliver.52/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/bob.tolliver.52/photos_albums) .



View of Greer During Fall Colors



Charles, Jo Ann, Bill, Dortha



Siblings and Spouses minus Carolyn

Returning for a few more days in Greer we explored side highways and Forest Service back roads, and spent a little extra time with Jo Ann's family. Her sister, Dortha, & husband, & Jo Ann's brother, Bill & wife have Summer homes in the area, & of course Bill & Dortha lead a resort ministry in Show Low. Younger brother, Charles, and his wife, Linda, stopped by from Grants Pass, Oregon, to Albuquerque, so we had two days all together as a family, the first time in over 17 long years that all the remaining siblings had been together.

### Enroute Home:

Then it was time to pack up and head towards home, leaving the Keystone Passport in Tucson. We decided to take several days and make a serpentine route through NM, CO, and KS, driving through El Malpais National Monument southwest of Grants, NM to Santa Fe. If you've not gone through there on Hwy 117, that is an absolute "Must See!" drive through colorful sheer bluffs on one side of the road and miles of hardened lava flows on the other. It silences vocal descriptions. You can see an album of it on Facebook.

After two nights in Santa Fe, we visited daughter, Debbie and her husband, Mike in Buena Vista, CO. They are doing well, are active in their church, in community activities, and a Christian social ministries outreach. Then it was on to Colorado Springs where we saw, after 21 long years, Glen & Natasha Wescott. Natasha's father was founder of St. James Bible College in Kyiv where we taught several times, & Glen was first school administrator. Glen works at "Messenger International", John and Lisa Bevere ministry in Colorado Springs.



Mike and Debbie Martinez (daughter)



Jo Ann with Natasha & Glen Wescott



Scott Welch & Keith Vanderveen w/us.



We also saw Keith & Sharon Vanderveen who met at Southern Hills Church in MO while Bob was interim pastor in the 1990's. Keith is general website administrator at Focus on the Family. We also remembered that another longtime friend, Scott Welch, a fellow student with some of our daughters at SBU, was senior program producer there, & we got to see him after over thirty years. We knew Scott's parents from 1969 when Bob and John met on an evangelistic trip to Trinidad, W.I. We did several meetings in their church, and still see Lois.

From there we stopped to see Ginny Jordan Parker in Walsenburg, CO, before making our final push toward home. Ginny and her mother were members at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Tucson, and we had not seen her since 1958 or 1959 ---- over 58 years!!! What a special reunion that was. Driving into the night with one headlight out, we overnighted in Garden City, KS, and then arrived home Saturday night, October 29<sup>th</sup> ---- 24 weeks and four days from when we pulled out of our driveway in our trusty 2003 Suburban pulling that 28' Keystone Passport.

We knew from the beginning that the trip would create some additional personal costs, but we knew we still needed to go. The Desert Pines Association covered much of our expenses to and from Greer and reimbursed us monthly for local travel, and others helped personally to cover part of other ministry. It also took \$3,000 to get the trailer and Suburban ready for the trip itself. So, put that on your prayer list. God is always faithful.

### **Saied's Arabic Ministry:**

We maintain ongoing contact, support, and prayer with Syrian pastor/evangelist Saied Ziadah in Norway and his family in Russia. All family members are in Russia and at least the two older sons are in university where they continue ministering to Arabic speakers. Saied and his wife are still refugees in Norway and still receive death However, they all remain strong and faithful to the Lord. A few weeks ago CBN did an update video report on Saied which you can see at <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2016/august/fearless-faith-one-refugee-risks-everything-to-bring-muslims-to-christ> and also read the accompanying article.



Saied and his wife



Special Arabic refugee gathering in Norway



Sergey & family in Siberia

When we planted KIBC in Kyiv in 2005, one of our target languages was Arabic. Our friend, "Mark" from Lebanon began leading a small group. Soon after returning to the States, we lost contact with them other than an occasional note from "Mark", with no idea the group still existed. Last Sunday morning Bob got a Facebook message from Mark, now in Lebanon with his wife, thanking us for the Bible studies and training in Kyiv that helped shape his life. He said that not only is the Arabic group still active, but that the members have spread out to develop ministries to Arabic speakers in numerous cities throughout the country. Praise God!

### **Sergey and the Buryat People:**

We have not heard from Sergey for quite some time (president of a senior class Bob taught at St. James Bible College in Kyiv), but we did learn from his website and our recent visit with the Westcott's that his friend who went to Siberia with him years ago from St. James died unexpectedly a few months ago. Yet, they continue to faithfully share the Gospel, train leaders, and plant churches – often with great dangers and death threats.

### **Hispanic Ministry:**

We seldom talk about the very first language ministry we started in Kyiv in 2003, but we wanted you to know that Tania and Arto are faithful in Sweden, and 'Jesus and Carmen Rivas moved from Virginia and are now pastoring a new Hispanic church in Portland, Oregon. Tania, "Jesus, and Carmen came from the same church in Cuba to Kiev and helped us start the "Upper Room" Hispanic Church that still ministers there under the leadership of one of its first converts, Raidel Arbelay Becerra. It was wonderful to reconnect with them.

## The Colons:

Joel and Ira have faced many hurdles both in Ira's business and in their ministry, and God is blessing both. Ira's coffee and flower shop continues growing and the missionary training school is up and running, preparing leaders and missionaries through the school. We just got their latest newsletter, so take time to check it out at <http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f804275218b723c5ab6d21bdf&id=0382af56c6&e=056f59f073>. A student must commit to a minimum of two years of missionary service following training.

Ira still translates for Joel and others in seminars, conferences, classes, and crusades. Joel still provides assistance and biblical insight to the Farsi ministry's video production. They post prayer updates via e-mail for the Farsi ministry, and continue ministering in the new church plant they began in their apartment complex. We encourage you to consider supporting their ministry by going to [www.onechallenge.org](http://www.onechallenge.org)



Ira translating for Joel



OC's Missionary Training class



Apartment church plant & local teens

## Farsi Ministry:

The Farsi ministry we began in 2005 in Kyiv keeps growing and is now the largest Farsi social media ministry in the world. Using Bible distribution, e-mails, training, YouTube, website, translation services, Facebook, & satellite television, the Gospel is being presented in 30+ countries and many are coming to Christ.

Between "M", "F", and the Colons, we have received these reports. One teen boy in the middle of the desert isolated from any city found the Facebook page on his solar-charged cell phone, and he and his mother came to Christ. Another young man in the same country accepted Christ and then walked hundreds of miles into Pakistan to share the Gospel. A young woman who recently came to Christ lives in fear of her radical-Islamist husband finding out and beheading her. Members of ISIS and Al Qaeda have also come to Christ.

"K", who translates for the ministry was convicted of being an "apostate" & sentenced to death. He escaped to another country just hours before he was to turn himself in, & is now in hiding there. We want to continue helping financially for his daily needs until he can get to Ukraine where he will take on the role of "office manager" for the ministry, freeing up "M" and "M2" to manage video production, respond to 3,000+ monthly personal inquiries a month on Facebook, and translate into Farsi for [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org). They average over 500,000 visits a month on Facebook, with over 120,000 regular subscribers.

The Farsi work in Sweden under "H's" leadership continues as he and his team minister to refugees there. We talked with "F" in Germany recently on Skype and learned that while the main Farsi group continues to reach people and runs 60 to 80 in attendance, they have also established at least four other satellite locations in outlying cities and towns, and in every situation refugees from Farsi speaking countries are coming to Christ. We try to stay in contact with "M" and "F" by e-mail, Facebook, and Skype are often as possible.



"M" and "M2" taping for TV at CBN



L/R, "M2", "M" in Kyiv and "F" in Germany



Diana (pronounced Deanna) & Roma

An unexpected thing from the Farsi ministry was the planting of a new English language international church in Kyiv. God gave "M" the vision a number of months ago to plant a "no spectators" Gospel driven church committed to evangelism, discipleship, and II Tim 2:2 multiplication. Saddened when KIBC closed a few years after we returned to the States, we are thrilled to see how God has given "M" a refined vision for such a church. By design it will probably remain relatively small numerically. They meet in the same church where KIBC began over twelve years ago. "M" is one of the pastors. We are so excited

On a personal level, "M" just turned 30, he and Ira celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in September, little Diana celebrated her first birthday on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, he is still taking medication to maintain his one remaining kidney, and they are in the process of building a house that will serve as their home & guest house for visitors.

### **Our Future – Very Important Prayer Matters:**

It seems that neither our personal future nor potential ministry has ever been more unclear at times than now. We thought we had this Fall and next year pretty well figured out, but not so. And, with both of us recently passing our annual wellness, we are ready to go! So, we really need your prayers and counsel.

**Ministry – Stateside:** While in Arizona, we were asked to consider doing a similar ministry for "Snowbirds" during the winter months, probably around the Tucson or Yuma areas. This is why we bought the used Fifth Wheeler for Greer and took the Keystone Passport to Tucson (Catalina) for possible winter chapel ministry.

According to our friends who direct volunteer ministries for Arizona, there are four parks in Yuma using chapel pastors, and two more possibly opening up, all for next season. They are mostly filled with short-termers from Canada, Northern Plains, and the Upper Midwest. The Tucson and Phoenix parks also have permanent residents like retirement complexes.

In both cases, most parks are filled seniors many of whom deal with health issues, anxieties, financial losses, and the like, and parks like that have a great need for a "shepherd" who can not only preach on Sundays but also provide pastoral care and evangelistic outreach. Pray with us about this important ministry need.

**Ministry – International:** We also need to return to Europe to help encourage and strengthen the Farsi and Hispanic ministries there. Ukraine -- "M" wants us to do a series of teaching and evangelism videos recording in CBN studios, and Joel and Ira want us to teach one to two weeks at the new missionary training center. Germany -- "F" would like us to do some evangelistic and discipleship teaching and training in Germany. Sweden -- We'd also like to include Tania and Arto in Sweden. Arabic – Finally, we've been asked to come to Russia and Norway to minister to Arabic speaking Muslims from Syria and other countries. We would have to do all of that either in March or October/November of next year, and both funds and schedule create great challenges for us. We know we can't do it all, but the Ukraine, Germany, & Sweden needs are most pressing.

**Personal:** -- While in Arizona, Bob saw what a blessing it was for Jo Ann to be back in her home state for more than just a week or 10 days at a time for the first time since we left for seminary in 1961. She thrived spending time with her siblings and going places she remembered from childhood. Since we left 55 years ago, we have not once returned to live near Jo Ann's family, though we've often lived within hours to mere minutes from Bob's. He saw what a personal sacrifice she has made, and even though we've talked about this many times as "wishful thinking", it now seems to be more a specific intentional desire. This needs some serious praying.

In addition, we have had rare ministry invitations in Missouri for the past three years, few from anywhere in the Midwest, yet there are numerous in the Southwest. We also tire of upkeep & maintenance on our place during our times at home. Finally, we don't endure cold weather and excessive humidity and heat like we once did.

This all leads us to believe we should seriously consider a move to Arizona in the not too distant future. That, of course, involves unbelievable logistics, so we ask for your prayer as we seek God's guidance and for wisdom to understand His plan. We have no idea when this might happen, but realize it could in 2017.

### **In The Meantime: -- Please pray for us and the upcoming events:**

- Dec 22-24: ---- Early Christmas at Deanna's and Jim's with Cheri and Bob.
- Dec 27-Jan 26: ---- Preaching/teaching/video work with Cindy & Kevin in Medellin, Colombia.
- Jan 29: ---- Our 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- Feb 18-21: ---- Barry County Bible/Evangelism Conference in Cassville, MO.
- Feb 23-25: ---- Missouri State Evangelism Conference in Springfield, MO
- April: ---- probable early departure to Arizona to explore winter "Snowbird" RV ministry possibilities.
- May 15 – Sept 24: ---- Greer Chapel ministry in Greer, AZ



## FINALLY:

**So, you can see just how badly we need your prayer. Two things have never been so clear in our minds than they are today.**

First, is how important those who support us are to this ministry. While they are small in number, they have been faithful. We absolutely could not do what we do without their support. Some have been with us from the very beginning 35 years ago. Most have supported us ten years or more. We cannot thank you enough. We never take you for granted and, even though we still usually have serious financial needs, we never want to be an undue burden, and we try hard to not bombard you with requests even though the needs are there. We always see you as key team members even though you are not present in person. **So, thank you, thank you!**

**By the way, if you need your 2016 contribution receipt before February, please finish up your giving & request your receipt by December 20<sup>th</sup>. When we go to Deanna's on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will not be back in the office to do any ministry tasks until the end of January. Otherwise, all contribution receipts will be mailed in February.**

Secondly, is how urgently we need a strong group of courageous intercessors willing to pray for us with confidence and authority, knowing that God will respond clearly. We cherish those who pray for us, whether it's a one-time prayer about a specific matter, or an ongoing regular underbidding in prayer. Both are essential. God acts in relationship to prayer. For more than 35 years we've had our "In-Pact Intercessors" who lift us before the Father, and we acknowledge that we can no more do what we do without them than we can do without those who support us financially. **So, to you, as well – thank you, thank you, thank you!**

## Requests:

- "K" has ongoing financial needs while he remains a refugee, and then when he goes to Ukraine, he will have ongoing need for his salary and lodging. "M" tells us that they still need about \$150 per month to cover "K's" costs. If you would like to help with that, make checks out to Life Unlimited and designate "Invisible" Farsi ministry on the Memo line. Or, you can also send directly to "M" via Paypal if you don't need a contribution receipt. Ask us for that information.
- Pray for us as we prepare for ministry with Kevin and Cindy in Medellin beginning Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be ministering in several churches, possibly at the Bible school, and Kevin will be doing important video taping of Bob's teaching to be used in English, Spanish, and Farsi venues. A large part of our costs are taken care of, but some needs remain.
- Pray about the needed trip to Ukraine, Germany, and Sweden. We have only two windows where that is even remotely possible; neither are "weather convenient" ---- March and early April or October and early November. It will require both time and funds.
- Pray about possible winter "Snowbird" RV ministry in Arizona. The situation is more comprehensive than we have time and space to share at this time, with numerous needs. It needs much prayer.
- Pray that our two vehicles will "endure to the end". We've had significant repair work done on both, and both still need some serious repair on transmissions and 4WD. The 1998 Buick LeSabre has 134,000 miles on it (just replaced the alternator last week), and the 2003 Chevy Suburban has 146,000+ miles (replaced battery and temporary fix on 4WD while in AZ). Both are beginning to, as my father would say, "Dollar us to death". Does God heal vehicles? He made sandals last in Sinai.
- Pray that we can get lots and lots of work done around the house and disposing of "stuff" in prep for a possible move during 2017. We have not only our "stuff", but also from Bob's parents, the ministry center in Wisconsin, and Kevin and Cindy's stuff we are storing for them.
- Pray that God will send a buyer for our 20+ acres and house at the right time for the right price. If you know of someone, send them our way. We're perfectly located less than 30 minutes from four major fishing and water sports lakes, and less than two hours from Kansas City.
- Pray that God will make it clear **if, when, and where** He wants us to move – a place with year-round moderate climate and relatively easy access to cities and airports.

In His Bond, By His Grace, and For His Kingdom

Bob and Jo Ann (We Told you it was long!)  
The Tollivers  
Life Unlimited Ministries (Box 228, Collins, MO 64738)

**In case we don't have a chance to get an official  
Christmas letter out,  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!  
(But, we DO hope to!)**