



Compelled to GO

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BIG PRAYER NEEDS! ---- We are facing some *Major* ministry opportunities, changes, and needs for 2017 and 2018, so ask that you pray for us every time you think of us. This is the biggest scheduling and financial ministry burden in our lives since our decision to go to Kiev in 2002. Read on.

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Once again, we are long overdue in updating you – and again incredibly busy. We just returned home last week from evaluating a future ministry invitation and getting Bob’s dental work finished that was begun in Colombia last month. After reporting in our last letter on last summer’s ministry at “Greer Chapel” in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona, and also reporting on various international ministries with which we are connected, today we update you on what has happened since then, beginning with the Dec Medellin trip.

SINCE DECEMBER:

We arrived in Medellin on Dec 27th, celebrated Christmas with Cindy’s the 28th (below left), enjoyed their 25th anniversary celebration that Kevin pulled off without a hitch (below center & right) and totally shocked Cindy. Many area pastors, missionaries, and fellow believers came to honor them. Clearly they have been exemplary manifestations of a godly family during the 16 years they have spent in Medellin. Bob had the special privilege of officiating as they renewed their vows, and then speaking to the attendees on God’s view of a godly family.



Our ministry schedule was full. Bob preached ten times on six out of the seven Sundays we were there. We also videotaped 18 “in studio” sessions (below left) on six different subjects for our various language ministries through voice-overs and subtitles on Facebook, YouTube, GodTube, the Farsi ministry’s broadcasts on CBN Middle East, personal distribution, and what looks like will be our own new YouTube channel and Facebook page. After several years of procrastination and delays, it looks like the video side of social media ministry is becoming a significant part of Life Unlimited’s future. The videos are in varying stages of final preparation.



While in Medellin we also celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary, and were treated by our girls to a day of sightseeing, a fantastic steak dinner (above center) and a special photo shoot at the Medellin Botanical Center (above right). We also had an opportunity to have some dental repair work done for Bob with the idea that future work would be done later in the year while in Arizona. That would indeed be the case as work was

completed in March while in Yuma. In both cases, the top quality work was done at less than one-third the cost in the U.S. (still almost \$5,000) – and the quality is equal to or superior to what could have been done here.

Due to the dental work in Medellin, we didn't arrive back home until Feb 14th, celebrating both our anniversary and Valentine's Day "on the go". By then Jo Ann had developed allergy/sinus problems that got progressively worse (and is still hanging on today, but slowly clearing). So Bob participated alone in the annual Barry County Conference, preaching Sunday morning at Shiloh Baptist Church (below left) and then Monday morning at the Conference itself (below center). We then went to the annual State Evangelism Conference where we heard speakers like Ed Stetzer from the Billy Graham Evangelism Center at Wheaton College.



Two weeks later, we then flew to AZ to investigate a possible "snowbird" resort ministry and also participate in the 60th anniversary celebration of 22nd Street Baptist Church in Tucson. Last year while in Greer, AZ, we had been asked to consider pastoring a Fall/Winter chapel at the Fortuna de Oro RV Park in Yuma, so we flew into Mesa Gateway and drove to Yuma to check things out. The park is enormous with over 1,200 sites. (Check it out at <http://www.cal-am.com/resorts/fortuna-de-oro/>.)



The chapel of 20+ years meets in the activities building (above left). It has a strong leadership core from WA, OR, CA, SD, and Canada. Even though near the season end, the attendance the Sunday we visited was still strong with 143 present (above center). They have a strong worship team (above right) that specializes in country gospel, southern gospel, praise choruses from the '80's and '90's, and traditional hymns. Orville, the man with the white beard, writes much of his own solo music. The people were incredibly friendly, and anxious that we accept the invitation – so we did. Four weeks after Greer, we serve there Nov 1st to March 31st, 2018.



The following week we returned to Tucson to share lunch with some of the Greer Chapel folks who live in Tucson (below left), and also participate in the 60th anniversary celebration of 22nd Street Baptist Church, the church where we met and were married. Jo Ann's parents helped plant the church, it constituted on March 17th, 1957, and Bob's father became its first pastor on June 9th. What a joy it was to relive memories, share a

tiny bit of the church's early days (left center), and renew fellowship with some longtime friends, including Doug and Judi (Poteet) Turner (center right and right below). When we first moved to Tucson, we stayed in the Poteet's home 'til a house was found. We were in both university and seminary with Doug and Judi.



Our minds are flooded with memories of the years we spent at 22nd Street before we went to seminary in the fall of 1961. Many of them have been triggered by pictures we have from both our own collection as well as dozens from Bob's parents' slide collection. In order to save time and space and still give you a view of our lives before marriage, Bob will put a large collection of pictures on his Facebook page in the next few weeks.

What Lies Ahead?

Honestly, we are overwhelmed by the thought. When most expect life to slow down and get simpler, the opposite happens for us. Currently we are trying to figure out how to deal with the extra expenses from the recent Medellin and Yuma/Tucson trips, and prepare for our expanded Arizona ministry in Yuma. We return to Greer, AZ, the second week of May to continue pastoring Greer Chapel through September. Because the Chapel de Oro ("Chapel of Gold") ministry begins November 1st, we will either stay in AZ or make a quick trip home for four weeks and then back to begin that five-month Yuma pastorate by November 1st. All told, we will be home only two months for the entire 2017 year. The Yuma ministry runs through the end of March, 2018, and then Greer begins again the following May.

This schedule, then, gives us cause to consider where we actually need to live, Missouri or Arizona. Either way, we feel more and more that we need to rid ourselves of such a beautiful place we have in Collins, and find something much smaller, convenient, and more economical. That idea, of course, opens up a totally new issue of getting this place ready to sell, selling it, locating another place, and moving to that new location. All of that seems impossible to imagine after living here twenty years. We have no idea how or when that could happen.

In addition, we are trying to work through the preparation and production of over 40 specific videos needing to get to "M" and "M2" for the Farsi work, and further explore the entire spectrum of extending our ministry through the use of Facebook, YouTube, and GodTube. Numerous friends and colleagues are urging us to develop those areas, and they could easily be used in our other language ministries.

Then, just as we accepted the Yuma ministry, we were invited by our friends, Richard and Stephanie Blake, to go back to Cuba this Summer (which we cannot do), and two days later received a reminder from Joel and Ira Colon in Kiev about the coming teaching schedule this year for their leadership training school. We're still trying to get back to Kiev to do some studio recording for the Farsi work, and Bob is still working on two books for the Farsi ministry and expanding his teachings on "Considering Critical Questions". He's also in his 20th year writing his weekly "Shoulder To Shoulder" e-letter with 1200+ letters behind him. Because of the political, moral, and spiritual issues before us, he has been writing recently on how to be involved as Christians in the culture itself rather than living lives isolated away from it. Jo Ann has sadly become a "writer's widow".

We both recently celebrated birthdays well beyond retirement, and yet, doors of opportunity continue opening. Slowing down is almost a repulsive thought to us. We would love to have a simpler and slower life, but the idea almost makes us feel selfish and ashamed. How can we possibly think of turning more inward and doing less! We just can't. Every time Bob thinks about the idea, it almost brings him to tears -- there is just so much yet to be done, so many people to be equipped, so many who still need to hear the simplicity of the Gospel.

So, you can see our plight ---- our ministry needs are enormous; in both physical capabilities, material needs, time usage, and everything, they are greater than any time in LUM's 37 years of existence. We desperately need your prayers. The needs are huge, the vision is distinct and clear, and the load is too big for us alone.



PRAYER NEEDS:

Just as we were finishing this letter with our prayer requests, this picture came on Bob's Facebook page. It illustrates how deeply we feel about these new ministries God has given us, and just how important you are as our "In-Pact" partners. The world is truly afire.

Stateside ministries don't seem as exotic as overseas, but are just as critical. Unthinkable things are happening in America and globally, with no continent or hemisphere untouched by the forces of evil and destruction. Prophecies are fulfilled daily, and time is short.

Not by choice, but many of our prayer requests relate to finances; but under no circumstance are we begging anyone to give. It is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to give direction, not us. Since 1980, we have shared the needs, leaving the results in God's hands. We share them with you because they are important, but the Holy Spirit will direct how to respond. So, please don't misunderstand our motives. But, the needs Are big.

1. Pray that the Lord will give us clarity as to the teaching opportunity next fall in Kiev – do we go, or not go?
2. Pray that our Greer Chapel family will all return, many new ones will come, and we will be ready with the plans and the teachings that fit the needs of the people. The possibilities for impact are significant.
3. Pray that the video preparation currently in process of our taping in Medellin will be completed quickly so we can get them to "M" and "M2" for subtitles and voice-overs in the Farsi language, and that they will also be usable in English and for other language applications.
4. Pray that Bob can get the "Considering Critical Questions" Facebook Page and YouTube channel set up for sharing many video teachings with others. Pray that he can make progress on the two Farsi books.
5. During February and March we incurred over \$5,000 in dental and other personal expenses. Pray that the Lord will enable us to completely cover those costs.
6. Our recent trip to Arizona to explore the Yuma ministry and participate in 22nd Street's 60th celebration cost us in excess of \$2,000 with no remuneration guaranteed, but some indicated. The church unexpectedly gave us \$200 for the Sunday we were there, and that was a blessing. Pray the Lord will provide the rest so we'll be free to begin the Greer ministry "in the black" with monthly support coming steadily.
7. We've said nothing about family or our other ministries, but all are doing well. Farsi work and the Colon's ministry are growing, great grandbaby #11 arrived in January, #12 is due soon, Jim is bi-vocationally pastoring a new young church in Galesburg, IL, Cindy and Kevin are seeing good success in Medellin, Colombia, Bible school construction is paid for and progressing, Christopher is a Junior at SAGU in TX, Michael is finishing his Freshman year in college in Galesburg, and Bob Johnson will have hernia surgery next month, ---- and we are more in love than ever, and excited over the unknown future!
8. Both aging vehicles need repairs and tire replacements ---- '98 Buick needs transmission work, tires replaced, and AC recharged; '03 Suburban needs transmission work and tires replaced by May. Love not having car payments, but repairs are often. Pray that God provides the resources.
9. Pray that God will give us clarity about whether or not (and when) to sell the house, and when that time comes, give us the right place to relocate and the financial resources to make the transition.
10. The ministry's 2007 Keystone Passport trailer will need the AC, water heater, and entry awning replaced and desk installed before we use it in Yuma next fall. The 5th wheel we bought in Greer needs the awning replaced in May. Each project is about \$2,500 each.

So, yes, we do have lots on our plates and the challenges are many. Even as we have listed these needs, God has reminded us of His great faithfulness to meet our many personal and ministry needs the past 58 years. Whether it was providing Bob new shoes at 50 cents per pair in St. Louis, providing us with two cars in IA, giving LUM a ministry center worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in WI, providing us a home here in MO, or sending us a team of faithful friends to support us monthly, it has been an amazing journey. Thanks for coming along with us! We couldn't do it without you, and still can't. We cherish your prayer and support.

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

Bob and Jo Ann – The Tollivers

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P.S. If the Lord does impress you to help meet these particular financial challenges, just let us know at lifeunlimited@pobox.com or 417-693-5149. If not, no problem whatsoever.