



*Compelled to Go!*

**Issue #134**  
**April 8, 2018**

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Greetings . . . , **finally** . . . , from our home in SW MO. Frankly, the past year and three months have been some of the most challenging and exhausting of our 60 years of ministry in ways that cannot be expressed. Often hard, we wouldn't change a thing. Two great seasons with Greer Chapel and one with Chapel de Oro in Yuma have been wonderful, but with both blessing and burden, God has, as always, been more than faithful.

So, repeated delays in getting our letters out have often been because various challenges have taken our time and energies, often leaving us physically and emotionally tired enough to decide to put off writing until a "more convenient" time. Writing is easy, but it takes lots of work to choose and edit pictures so you can feel more a part of our story. So, after several attempts to complete this issue, here it is --- with only one picture this time.

#### **Five Months In Yuma:**

We arrived March 31<sup>st</sup> from the desert city of Yuma, AZ, where we had been ministering at Fortuna de Oro RV Resort, pastoring Chapel de Oro since last November. It was a delightful but different ministry from Greer Chapel in the mountains of eastern Arizona where we'll go again this coming late May. While most of the folks in Greer are from hot desert cities of the Southwest and a few other isolated places, the folks in Yuma are from a much broader geographic area covering much of the North American continent. Here is a frequent sunrise view from our dining table at the end of our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. No two sunrises are alike; all worth capturing.



More than half are Canadian, another 30% from the northern tier of states (WA to MI), and the remaining 15% to 20% are from eastern, southeastern, coastal, and Midwestern states. The one thing they all have in common is the decision to spend the hostile Fall and Winter months in a warm and dry climate like Yuma has.

We are continually amazed at how God pours out His blessing on ministries to which He calls us; but of course that should really not surprise us ---- amaze us, yes; surprise us, no. Even today, weary and facing several personal challenges, we repeatedly ask God for four things: ---- 1) "Extend our years; 2) Increase our stamina; 3) Sustain our health; and 4) Open doors. Bob often quotes these little-known scriptures: "*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.*" (III Jn 1:2), and, "*The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*" (Deut 28:8).

Much has happened there since our last letter way back in early December. Interest and attendance at Chapel de Oro were amazing. We had less than 100 people in a service only once, when we had 99. From

November through January attendance steadily increased and then peaked during February and early March nearing 200. We had first-time visitors every Sunday but one, and many assured us they would return next season. As Bob tried to select some pictures to show things like the men's Bible study, the amazing worship team, church services, and potluck dinners, he finally gave up ---- just too many from which to pick. So, take our word for it; the people are some of the most enthusiastic, spiritually hungry, "singigest", joyful folks we've been around in a long time and asked us to return next Fall. ☺. And, Lord willing, we plan to do just that. ☺

### **Personal Matters:**

While in Yuma, we both had our annual wellness exams and came out with flying colors other than both of us stilling needing to shed some pounds, Bob needing to get his cholesterol count down, and Jo Ann needing to maintain her medications since her heart attack just before last Thanksgiving Day. The cardiologist says her heart has strengthened substantially and is much stronger now than even he expected.

We celebrated our 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 29<sup>th</sup>, Jo Ann turned 76 on February 27<sup>th</sup>, and Bob broke the eighth decade on March 19<sup>th</sup>, turning the big 80. We did experience a little physical setback on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at the end of the chapel service. Bob tore the lateral meniscus on his right knee when he stepped up onto the platform. Following an MRI, surgery was recommended, but it couldn't be done in Yuma until July. So, we made arrangements to have it done in Bolivar, MO, about 25 miles from our home on Friday morning, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The surgery options ranged from removing "debris", with only a few days of recovery, to a meniscus repair that would take six or more weeks of recovery and therapy. The surgeon did the first, and is "in recovery" being pampered at home, waiting to see if it did the trick. We have a follow up appointment April 8<sup>th</sup>. Bob has also had several pre-cancerous spots removed from his right ear and cheek. Those areas are steadily healing.

### **Being Brutally Honest:**

Following the Holy Spirit's conviction in 1983 that we should live debt free, we have faithfully done that with the exception of a small home equity loan used to add a modest sun room and storm shelter beneath when we returned from the mission field. It has been decades since we have carried a balance on credit cards, and we have paid all expenses, both personal and ministry related, on time or early for more than 35 years.

When we returned from Ukraine almost ten years ago, our ministry monthly support dropped significantly, but we were able to minister within those limits while our personal needs were covered by our Social Security income. However, for the past two years we have had to use personal resources to take care of necessary ministry costs, because 99% of our ministry no longer generates love offerings and honorariums as it had in the past when churches were inviting evangelists and missionaries to do conferences and crusades. That is almost a thing of the past these days. Our work is now almost all "volunteer" without income.

Most months we spend from \$300 to \$600 of our Social Security income to cover monthly ministry related costs. We don't bemoan that because, as one of our board members noted some twenty years ago, "*Life Unlimited Ministries is you, and you are Life Unlimited Ministries.*" Our lives are, for the most part, immersed in using every moment and resource to communicate the message of the Gospel.

Two things have happened since last May that have brought us to the point of serious financial need. First, ten months of each year are spent in the Arizona ministries where expenses are not fully covered, and we pay the difference. Second, we have both faced recent health challenges. Increasing insurance premiums have necessitated us taking high annual deductibles in order to keep our policies. Jo Ann's heart attack treatments exceeded \$90,000, and several thousands of that will be costs we will have to cover plus additional \$500 monthly medication costs. Now, with Bob's knee surgery and a new calendar year kicking in with new annual deductibles coming our direction soon, he has yet more expenses ahead.

Both our personal and ministry resources are exhausted, and there are thousands of dollars of expenses that will come in the next few weeks. We need God's provision, and we need your prayer support. We are not asking you to help; we are asking you to pray. God will make it clear to those He wants to use to help by giving.

### **Now On To Other Things:**

**Family --** We've not written much lately about our family, so let's do a quick summary:

- + Our eldest, Cindy, has had very little improvement in hearing loss in one ear, and now has a hearing aid.
- + Grandson, Christopher, graduates 4/27 from SAGU with a major in media ministry.
- + Our second born, Debbie's husband, Mike, is in Co. Spgs. recovering from Empyema. Google it.
- + Our third born, Cheri, and husband, Bob, visited us in Yuma, and are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- + Our youngest, Deanna, and family are still in Galesburg. Granddaughter JoyLinn graduates from high school in May.

**Saied Ziadah** – Our Syrian pastor friend whom we helped get to Russia and then to Norway, fled Norway with his wife because of persecution by both authorities and radical Islamists and went to Germany. There appears to be some link between the refugee agencies in both countries, and Germany has denied them refugee residency, threatening to send them back to Norway who would probably send them back to Syria and almost certain imprisonment or death.

**Joel and Ira** -- Both the Colon's evangelism training center and Ira's coffee and flowers shop are doing well. Joel, Ira's brother, and another friend flew from Kyiv to D.C. to attend the National Prayer Breakfast, and were able to meet with various governmental officials and leaders of the Helsinki Commission. While there he also got to meet and speak with the Chief Rabbi of Ukraine. The flower shop sold many flowers during Valentine's Day and International Women's Day, and is gaining a good reputation for coffee and pastries. Its popularity is spreading, and numerous people of influence are becoming customers as it serves as a good meeting place for visiting and doing business. The Global Partners Missionary School will graduate another thirteen students next month. We cherish our long relationship with Joel and Ira, pray for them often, and miss them dearly. Ira was one of Bob's translators the last year he taught at St. James Bible College, and Joel was instrumental in helping the Hispanic church that we planted get on its feet. Please pray for and consider supporting them.

**"M" and Farsi Ministry** – We had intended to post the exciting news we got from "M" back in February, but, as we already noted, we just kept putting things off so we could include photographs and the most recent events. In a nutshell, here are some of the amazing things continuing to go on with the Farsi ministry. "M" began by writing, *"It's been a long time since I wrote an update. Please forgive me for that. It seems that I've been trying to catch up with the speed of our ministry growth for the past several months."*

While the ministry must be extremely cautious in what is shared and how, he has given us permission to share, knowing that you will wisely limit and share "anonymously". He continues with the following statistics:

- *Around 170,000 Facebook subscribers, over 120,000 of them who are Muslims.*
- *Over 650,000 Facebook monthly visits from more than 35 countries.*
- *Over 2300 Instagram followers receive daily devotion and encouragement.*
- *Over 670 "Timothies" disciple daily on our Telegram channel in the remotest places of the Middle East.*
- *These people, in turn, share their faith where there's no church; many have come to Christ.*
- *All these numbers keep growing daily.*
- *Face to Face TV broadcasts two weekly Christian via CBN Satellite network.*
- *People we're reaching are from countries where church and small group gatherings Christians are sent to jail or are executed for organizing such things.*
- *We reach out to the communities without a single church or in some cases, without a single Christian.*
- *Only over the past few days, 5 people from remote places in Afgha\*\*\*\*tan have given their hearts to the Lord via Facebook page. [This was back in February.]*
- *Over the past several months, hundreds of people have come to faith from Afgha\*\*\*\*tan, Ir\*\*\*\*n and other countries, including an Al Q commander, a commander's wives, extre\*\*\*\*ist Muslims, teachers, &more.*
- *There is such an impact that judges in Isl\*\*c courts inside Afgha\*\*\*\*tan and Ir\*\*\*\*n have questioned arrested Christians about their ties to our ministry and tried to get more information about us. That shows that something is going on in that part of the world.*
- *When people are ready to accept Christ, we pray with them through Facebook Messenger, Skype and other online means and lead them to Christ mainly in Afgha\*\*\*\*tan, Ir\*\*\*\*n but also in 30 other countries.*
- *They subscribe on our Facebook page and receive daily content to study and grow in their faith.*
- *We now have a new person getting trained to mount videos for us in the office we've been renting.*
- *We've also increased the amount of translation we're doing every month, and have been producing more high quality content.*

#### Our Plan for 2018

- **App:** *We want to create a mobile app for the believers in Farsi speaking countries with limited and monitored Internet connection to access our content. This App will have features like a personal account, Farsi Bible, compressed videos section (for easier download/watching), etc. It will also allow believers to anonymously share content between each other through cell phones.*
- **Website Redesign:** *A professional Christian web designer has been working on our new Farsi website over the past few months. It should serve our needs for the next few years considering our growth rate. The website will contain over 1000 videos we now have on hand. It will also include multiple sections for teachings, discipleship and reading. The website will be up and running sometime in February.*

- **Recording Quality Content in the Studio:** *The Farsi section of CBN has given us time for two weekly programs. We've been busy recording high quality content to broadcast via Satellite. The cost of broadcast (which Satellite has been covering) is over \$50,000/month. There's an estimate of 10 million people who are being reached through our programs. We rent a professional studio for an entire day, twice a month to record these videos. We have produced over 2100 minutes of programs over the past 9-12 months. These programs include preaching, Bible studies, Christian apologetic, theology, Evangelistic messages, etc.*
- **Translations:** *We also translate sermons, articles and books and make them available for Farsi speakers on our network. We have a team of paid translators who do this for us. They mainly live in persecuted countries, and they partner with us in this ministry and make a little income through translating materials for us. This way, we also share in their lives by supporting them a bit.*

As a means of explanation, there are three ways to help "M" and the Farsi ministry. You can continue sending as in the past to Life Unlimited Ministries with "Farsi Ministry" listed in the Memo Line, you can give directly through "M"'s personal PayPal account, or you can give through their new tax-deductible account at *OneChallenge International*. They are vitally involved as well in providing financial help for media equipment and production. If you decide to do that, send your gifts to OneChallenge International at:

OC International  
5801 North Union Blvd  
Colorado Springs CO, 80918, USA

**Please write "Farsi Ministry #830524" on the check.**

We also receive money through PayPal. I'll provide more information on PayPal upon your request.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- A good time of rejuvenation and rest while we are home in MO until late May.
- Safety as we travel for Christopher's university graduation in TX and JoyLinn's final performance in IL.
- Healing and strength for Bob's knee following surgery. Success has not been guaranteed.
- Healing for Debbie's husband, Mike, as he continues recovering from Empyema.
- Large financial needs we currently face ministry-wise and personally.
- Financial needs for the Farsi ministry both for "M" at headquarters in Ukraine and for "F" in Germany.
- For Saied and wife as they face serious deportation dangers from Germany that could result in death.
- Joel and Ira Colon's expanding ministry in training Ukrainians in evangelism and church planting.
- Two aging vehicles (1998 Buick LeSabre and 2003 Chevy Suburban) facing repairs or possible replacement.
- Wisdom in what to do about our house we spend almost \$900 a month and live in it only two months each year.
- Needed trips to Ukraine, Germany, Sweden, Colombia, and Cuba, all seeming beyond possibility.

### **FINALLY:**

Thanks for rejoicing with us and helping bear our burdens as well. We are not special people and, as James said, we face many challenges that are simply "common to man" and we should expect no less. Every need and burden become opportunities for God's provision to be released. If there was no need, there would be no need for His provision.

We are so super excited about resuming ministry in late May, and trust the Lord to provide everything we need ---- renewed vision, improved health, extended days, increased energy, financial provision, and open doors. Never forget or underestimate just how important you are to our ministry. We are merely extending your hearts and love, depend on your constant prayer, and are always grateful for both your prayer and financial gifts.

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

Bob and Jo Ann (The Tollivers)

**If you desire to contact us, do so in one of the following:**  
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