



Committed to Trust!
Compelled to Go!

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Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

It seems like we can never get our act together in sending out our praise/prayer update letters on a monthly basis as we would like. It is inexcusable that we do such a poor job of keeping you informed about what God is continuing to do with this ministry after all these years and miles. Since our ministry began together over 60 years ago, God has lavished the two of us with the blessings of being in over thirty countries incorporating dozens of languages sharing the message of Redemption and sharing God's love in practical ways.

We still stand in amazement not only over such a past adventure, but even more so that we are still privileged to still be at it at this stage of life. Just this past July 4th at a cookout in the RV park where we currently live, a newcomer to the park asked if we had ever thought of retiring. Bob told him we had actually officially retired at age 65 back in 2003, but had found no reason to stop doing what we do ---- share the Gospel, mentor leaders, try to strengthen and encourage believers, and minister to the needs to others.

It still amazes us, after all these years, places, and miles, that God has been faithful to sustain us by His grace and His resources through people like you who continue to support our ministry. There have been many lean years such as now, but we've never missed a meal, and even when unplanned expenses such as those recent car repairs or dental work come our way, God has enabled us to remain "in the black". Just like past years, we are ***"always amazed, but never surprised."***

Frankly, we simply do not have the words to express our gratitude to the Lord over how He has, for reasons known only to Him, chosen to use us. Our favorite word continues to be, **"WOW!"**

Much has happened since our last letter way back in February . . . in February!!!!???? (Goodness!!!), so let's bring you up to speed.

+ From Chapel de Oro to Greer:

> The ministry at Chapel de Oro in Yuma continued growing right up to the final "shut-down" Sunday in March, even though a number of families left a few weeks earlier than usual, and several families had to say farewell for the final time since they're not returning next season. Four new board members were added to replace those who are not returning for health reasons, and it looks like this will be a very good thing.

> Bob celebrated his 81st birthday March 19th, and is still trying to figure out how he should feel at this stage of his life. Like most of us as we get older, our bodies don't want to cooperate with our still-young minds.

> Thanks to the generosity of Arizona friends who didn't want us to lose the chance for the ministry to purchase the park model we wrote about earlier, we were able to close the purchase transaction right on time and move in before leaving Yuma for the season. He and his wife graciously "loaned" us the remaining \$20,000, interest-free, to be returned with the sale of the ministry's 5th wheel we had been using the previous two seasons. Unfortunately, the market is not good right now and the 5th wheel has not sold.

We are not comfortable with this prolonged situation, and are asking the Lord to provide the rest of the funding in some other way, so please make that a matter of prayer. We do have access to personal funds with our credit union, but this is a ministry related issue, and it would increase our personal financial obligations some \$100 a month. Since we personally live entirely from our Social Security income, we really don't want to do that. Join us in asking the Lord to provide otherwise through His people.



> Because of the park model purchase, we didn't leave Yuma as early as usual, and then only spent two weeks at home in Missouri to pick up some items and arrange for a major painting project on the house and garage before returning to Yuma with some furniture pieces for the duration of April and May. Apparently the return trip with a small trailer was not good on the car's transmission, so we spent part of our time dealing with some significant repair work and also making arrangements to store the 5th wheel until it sells. We ended up not arriving in Greer until after Memorial Day week-end, which is our usual Chapel starting time there.

+ Greer So Far:

> Greer and the surrounding mountains had experienced an abundance of snow and rain during the winter season . . . the most in decades . . . so lakes and streams were full and the vegetation was lush. Wild flowers were ready for the cool and sunny mountain weather.

> Our first service was June 2nd, and was the smallest attendance since June of 2015 before we arrived to pastor the chapel, with only 25 in attendance. In spite of that, we still had first-timers, keeping the string of consecutive Sundays going since May of 2016 . . . up until June 9th when no one was there for the first time. Since then, we've had first times again in every service.

> This has been an interesting season so far in that, as Jo Ann mentioned to Bob a week or so ago, it feels like every week is a "start up again" week. Many, many of our people have had significant health issues that have kept them from arriving yet. In addition, the community has experienced the deaths of numerous well known and loved residents . . . at least eight that we know of since last winter, and four or five since our arrival. This is always a difficult time for a small mountain town of around 100 permanent residents where everyone knows everyone.

> In spite of a slow start and numerous times of sadness, God has been at work. A major miracle for the town was the unanimous approval by the County Board of Supervisors for a long range development plan that had been in the making for some ten years. The approval opens the door for major developments and improvements regarding small businesses, hiking trail improvements, trophy fishing lakes, community services expansion, and other things. Long-term Chapel and town folks are very excited.

> Greer Chapel continues the expansion of its own presence and influence this season. Last year we had a "Hospitality Tent" during the annual "Greer Days" festivities. This year, thanks to the Resort Ministries of the Desert Pines Association, we had a brand new large 13' X 13' tent, attention-getting new banner, and literature racks from which to give away free Bibles, Daily Bread Devotional book, tracts, candy, and cold water. The following Sunday we had at least four families attend because of our presence.



> Greer is a very patriotic community, and loves to celebrate patriotic and seasonal holidays and honor our veterans. Greer Chapel is always involved in some way, and this year's "Ringing of the Bell" ceremony on July 4th was no exception. Bob led the invocation, Jo Ann played the piano, another member led in the pledge of

allegiance while another exceeded the entire program and a significant number helped serve the BBQ lunch following the ceremony. Our greatest participation came as we honored two Chapel members as the two oldest veterans at the ceremony – WW II veterans Gerry Meyer (age 97) and Ray Evans (age 93). We were also honored to have another Chapel member, Judge James Teilborg, a federal Ninth Circuit judge, as one of the keynote speakers. He was a classmate to former AZ Senator, Jon Kyl, who also spoke in the ceremony.



Gerry Meyer



Ray Evans



Judge Jim Teilborg



Senator Jon Kyl

> To be serving in such a beautiful place as Greer and with such amazing people, we sure do stay busy. It seems we jump from one thing to another. On Sundays Bob preaches on this season's theme, "God's Word For Today's Worries" and Jo Ann coordinates all the music and helps preparing for "brunch" to follow. Mondays Jo Ann participates in the women's Bible study. Every other Tuesday we have a Resort Ministries Leadership meeting in another city. Wednesday mornings we lead a study of the Gospel of John in our RV park and we are studying "The Ten Wonders of Israel" that afternoon in the Chapel's midweek service. Thursday mornings Bob leads the men's prayer breakfast, and Friday afternoons the Chapel sponsors "Mexican Train" game day.

> More good things are coming in Greer as local community efforts covering a number of years have resulted in the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approving a long-range development plan that will impact Greer for years to come. In fact, this coming Saturday a community meeting will be held with representatives from the First Service, Land Management, Game and Fish, and other state agencies looking at proposals that will dramatically restore natural, economic, and business potential for the area. There is a possibility that even AZ Senator Martha McSally may be present.

> In the meantime, we continue making an impact with vacationers and local residents. With the exception of one Sunday, our Sundays with first time visitors continue from the first Sunday of the 2016 season. Our grandson, Christopher, is getting married August 23rd, so we will make a fast trip to Aledo, TX, and back in a few weeks. We will not be returning home to Collins from Greer, but will go directly to Yuma for Bob to have knee replacement surgery in October and then begin the ministry there in November.

+ Partnership Ministries:

We continue our close ties with some of the ministries that emerged while we were missionaries in Ukraine, and thanks to social media, we are able to communicate frequently with a number of them. We seldom hear from our Syrian friend, Saied Ziadah, anymore, but assume he and his wife are doing well, still in Norway. He has entered only three posts on his Facebook page in 2019, the most recent back in May, but that could be because of limited internet access.

We've also had a hard time keeping contact with our sweet "Cuban daughter" Tania, and husband Arto, but until recently that was because we did not have good internet service. We hope to reconnect with them again soon. As far as we know, they are still in London.

However, we do stay in touch with Joel and Ira Colon in Kyiv, "M" and Ira in Ukraine, "F" in Germany, and Sergey and Inna in Russia. Here are some thumbnail reports on their ministries

> Sergey and Inna: Their ministry is nothing short of phenomenal, now in its 15th year with the Buryat people in and around Ulan Ude in Siberia. Sergey had recently sent us a very exciting update report filled with many exciting events, but we cannot seem to locate it on Bob's laptop. So, in summary, the church continues to grow, more and more people are being trained to go out as missionaries and evangelists with the Gospel (see picture next page left), more and more outreaches are going on, and many churches are being planted.



Evangelism Training with Sergey Lyavkov in Siberia



Joel and Ira Colon (and her mother, we think) with Col. Jim and Kelli Molloy in Kyiv



Iryna, Ira, Joel, "M", and "F" with a young lady we understand is "F"'s girlfriend

> Joel and Ira Colon continue training young leaders to unnamed countries with the Gospel, plant churches, and train leaders. We recently saw the middle picture also showing Col. Jim and Kelli Molloy who were part of our ministry in Kyiv. Jim, a fighter pilot, was head of security for the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, and now teaches at Liberty University. They were in Kyiv teaching ESL classes as part of an evangelistic outreach.

> "M" in Ukraine and "F" in Germany continue leading the amazing Farsi ministry as it grows in scope. Recently when "F" visited Ukraine, they were all able to get together for a visit. We don't have recent reports of the Farsi ministry other than it continues to expand and many Farsi speakers are coming to Christ. And it goes without saying that seeing these pictures remind us all over again of just how very much we love these friends and miss them beyond words. We continue supporting those ministries through prayer and financial support.

+ Personal Lives:

We are actually doing well even though having our share of physical and financial challenges this past Spring and Summer. Actually, it's hard to describe ---- because in the middle of unplanned high dental expenses, serious unexpected car repairs, still more needing to be done, Bob's ongoing challenges with his knee, his ongoing hearing deterioration, several deaths, and other things, we find ourselves enjoying a sense of peace, contentment, and fulfillment in the middle of it all. We truly are blessed. Is this is what Paul was talking about in Philippians when he said, *[we] have learned to be content in whatever circumstance [we are].*" (Phil 4:11)?

We are still waiting for the Lord to send a buyer for the ministry's RV currently stored in Yuma. It needs to sell so we can return the \$20,000 our friends advanced us in order to purchase the ministry park model in Yuma.

We now have very good cell phone service in Greer, but it required having to buy two new i-phones. The new tower went on line last Fall, but it was a more advanced system than the old tower a few miles away and the new signal drowned out the old so that our old phones were useless. But, with new phones, service is great.

One of Jo Ann's dreams has been to once again have a piano. Living in two 5th wheel RV's most of the year made that more than impractical – it was impossible. So, when we realized that the Lord was providing the ministry a park model with lots of space (pics p. 2), Bob, who had been saving some money from occasional E-bay sales for this, found exactly what she wanted – so now, at least in Yuma she has a piano to play. Happy!

BIG NEWS! Grandson, Christopher, is getting married August 23rd in Aledo, TX, to sweet Kiara. Cindy and Kevin return to the States July 30th for a missionary conference, Christopher's wedding, & 6 months raising support for their growing ministry in Colombia. We'll join them for the wedding. Debbie and Mike are still in Buena Vista, CO, where she's been teaching school this past year. Cheri and Bob are still in St. Paul involved in church, marriage and adoptive parents conferences, and family challenges. Deanna and Jim are still in Galesburg where she is prepping for another MS150 bike ride, working in a medical clinic, and Jim continues as a bivocational pastor at Fields Church. He just had a little ER scare Friday that turned out to not be anything critical, but will schedule an Endoscopy for follow-up. There is something we've probably missed, and we'd love to tell you about all our grandkids, great grandkids, and the latest Carson addition, our great-great-nephew, Rodrick, born Wednesday. But, . . .



As you can see, we have MANY ministry, personal, and material needs. Please pray!!! Often!!!

In His Bond, By His Grace, and For His Kingdom,
Bob and Jo Ann (The Tollivers)

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