



Committed to Trust!
Compelled to Go!

Issue #139
October 14, 2019

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Would you believe that we started writing this letter over six weeks ago! After countless interruptions, it is finally coming your way. We concluded our season at Greer Chapel three weeks ago, & now settling in at the ministry's park model in Yuma. Much has happened since our last letter, and we're anxious to update you.

++ Greer Chapel:

> **Odd Season:** The ministry season in Greer was the most unusual of the four thus far. Sickness, "not returnings", deaths, travels, and many unexpected delays kept many of our regulars in limbo, hindering consistent increased attendance as in the past. Our first Sunday saw the lowest attendance in four years with only 25 present. Still, we had first timers again every Sunday but two. Every week was like a start-up week.

> **Ministry Growth:** The Chapel ministry itself continued to expand as well. With the new 13'X13' "Hospitality Tent" we received this year, we'll use it again next year during the annual "Greer Days" festival to add another feature to our "Free Stuff" list of literature, Bibles, Daily Bread Devotional book, tracts, candy, and cold water. Desert Pines Baptist Association Resort Ministries purchased a new laptop computer and data projector, so next year during "Greer Days", we'll print off free scriptural meaning and Bible verse of the name of any person who requests it. We'll also use them during weekly chapel services and events.

We also featured special guests two consecutive weeks. The Sunday we were gone for our grandson Christopher's wedding to Kiara Zapada, missionaries Frank and Carolyn Martin spoke about ministry in Turkey, including the exploding work to Iranians flooding into Turkey. Reports are coming out that one of the fastest church planting movements in the world is now happening in Iran.

The following Sunday, Labor Day week-end, we saw the highest Chapel attendance in over ten years. It was a special treat to have daughters Cindy and Cheri and their spouses spend a week here after Christopher's and Kiara's wedding. Bob and Cheri spoke to our group on Wednesday, and Kevin and Cindy shared about their 17+ years of ministry as missionaries in Medellin, Colombia.



(Biggest attendance in over 10 years)



(Kevin speaking on missions)



(Bob & Cheri speaking on adoptive kids)

The weekly men's and women's Bible studies were well received, with the women's Bible study seeing some of its highest attendances ever. The Mountain Aire RV park Bible study where we live also grew in spite of losing several tenants and some Bible study participants. Believe it or not, we still have not finished the Gospel of John (covered chapter ten through the first half of chapter fourteen), so will pick up again next year.

The Chapel continues to sponsor the weekly "Mexican Train" game day and it seems every week finds non-Chapel participants joining Chapel members building relationships and enjoying fellowship and snacks. Attendance will sometimes run up into the 20's, and it continues to be an excellent means of outreach.



Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study



Mountain Aire RV Park Bible Study



"Mexican Train" Game Day Outreach

> **Preaching Theme:** Bob's preaching theme for the season was "*God's Word For Today's Worries*" and included "*God's Word On His Word, on Suffering and its Purpose* (two sermons), on *Freedom From Fear*", on *Spiritual Warfare*", on *Sharing His Love*, and on *Maintaining Confidence and Courage*. The sermons on suffering, fear, and warfare have apparently spoken deeply to people's hearts with many positive comments. The study on warfare was of such interest that we did follow-up discussions on Wednesday afternoons.

> **Chapel Influence:** The Chapel's influence on the community at large continues to grow in favor, and past hostilities by a few locals have all but disappeared. The unanimous approval by the County Board of Supervisors last Spring for a long range development plan is already bearing fruit.

In September, the annual meeting of the state Game and Fish Department met in Greer. Impressed, they will meet there again next year. They are considering creating one of the Greer Lakes a trophy trout fishing lake, creating "kiddie ponds" for children to fish, improving access points for fishing along the Little Colorado, improving boat ramps, and constructing special piers for handicap access. The Forest Service is also considering creating access trails to lakes and the Little Colorado River, reopening abandoned hiking trails, putting up directional signs throughout the current trail system, and improving Hoyer State RV Park.

> **YouTube:** A number have asked about the weekly sermons videos. We are happy to tell you that, thanks to Steve Williams, almost all sermons from 2016 – 2019 are on the chapel's YouTube channel. He chooses the best from three different videos of each sermon, converts it to an MP4 file, and then uploads it.

These are "raw and unedited" and have not been dressed up in any way. That will hopefully come later. They are recorded from varying locations, and depending on those locations the color and sound will be affected. Most of them are taken from "onboard" shotgun mics that also pick up some echo. But, that's what you have.

To access the videos, go to https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=greer+az+chapel. Or you can just go to YouTube and type in "Greer AZ Chapel". You will find the sets for each year. Click on "View Full Play List" for your chosen year, and the full season's list will come down. The themes for the four seasons are as follows: **2016** – "*Critical Questions: Man – Created For God?*" **2017** – "*When Ordinary Man Confronts An Extraordinary God*" **2018** – "*The Wonder of It All*". **2019** – "*God's Word For Today's Worries*"

++ **Early To Yuma:** For the first time during our ministry we actually concluded chapel activities a week early because so many of our regular families were leaving. So, our final service was held September 22nd instead of the 29th. This enabled us to not be so rushed in packing up and battening down the old King of the Road in Greer and make our way to Yuma early with the hope of having the consultation for Bob's knee replacement surgery a bit sooner, hoping to have the surgery before services in Yuma begin November 5th.

++ **Unexpected Personal Challenges:**

> **Car Repairs:** Last Spring while still in Yuma, the transmission on the car began to act up. The local dealership did a "32 point check" of the car. We were stunned to learn that they found \$3,500 worth of repairs needing to be done. Knowing that wasn't financially possible, we opted for the most urgent -- \$1,500 to flush out the transmission, and \$500 for rear brakes. Returning to Greer we held off on other things until we had to buy tires if we were going to attend grandson Christopher's wedding. So, we spent \$750 for new tires and front end alignment. The day before that appointment a brand new couple to the chapel (from Alaska) gave us \$600 for our own needs, not having a clue about our needs. Then a week later, the same couple told us they wanted to support Life Unlimited Ministries on a monthly basis. What an exciting answer to prayer! We've

been running “in the red” for some two years, using our personal SS checks to try to cover the shortfall, so this was an amazing affirmation from the Lord of His faithfulness, and that we are to continue trusting and serving.

> **Major Mishap:** Then the morning we were to go to Texas in August to attend our grandson’s wedding to sweet Kiara, scalding coffee “erupted” over the back of Bob’s left hand as he poured it into his thermos, causing severe burns, several spots reaching into the muscle tissue. Pain was severe and constant, especially if sunlight hit the burned area. Gratefully, after more than a month, all is healed with minimal scarring.

The trip was fast – two days travel, two days for the wedding, and two days traveling back. We saw amazing scenery as we drove through NM’s Quarter horse ranches, Billy The Kid country, and the Lincoln County Range Wars territory. Following the wedding, Cindy and Kevin (groom’s parents) and Cheri and Bob drove to Greer and spent a little over a week with us, hiking, speaking, and experiencing our world of Greer.

> **Still More:** Soon after our kids left, a ministry we have been supporting for many years told us, completely out of the blue, that they wanted to begin supporting Life Unlimited Ministries. It was another unexplainable answer to prayer. Then just before we left for Yuma, the Chapel folks blessed us with a generous “thank you” gift to Life Unlimited that lets us put some of our personal resources back into personal needs.

> **Oh, No:** But, the adventure doesn’t end there. The morning we were leaving Greer to go to Yuma, Bob was putting the final tarp over the storage shed when a long cinder block fell off the roof striking Bob squarely on the front teeth. Initial damage showed one front tooth cracked and the other one chipped. Enroute to Yuma Bob texted his dentist in Los Algodonas and set an appointment for the following Monday.

Subsequent X-rays revealed much more severe damage. End result, the removal of four teeth broken off at the roots and an earlier crown, all replaced by a bridge. Our only consolation for the \$1,800+ cost was the awareness that in the States it would have cost (at \$1,000 per tooth average) over \$5,000.

But, once again, God provided for that unexpected expenditure when, out of the blue, some who support our ministry gave generously to cover the entire dental cost. Then, just this past Sunday night we learned that someone is giving us an electric golf cart to help us navigate the RV park without having to use the car all the time. What a special blessing that will be following Bob’s surgery Wednesday. Needless to say, we are so humbled and feel so undeserving of such expressions of love and support. We are still in awe of it all.

Then finally, . . . here we are . . .

++ In Yuma:

> **Settling In:** Arriving pretty exhausted Saturday, September 28th, we tried to unpack and rest up for Bob’s dental appointment Monday. The dentist pulled four damaged teeth and modified a crown with the plan to put in the permanent bridge Tuesday. But, Jo Ann came down with a “bug”, delaying us until Thursday. The dental work complete, we were able to get his appointment moved up four days, hoping for an earlier surgery. God blessed, and surgery is set for this coming Wednesday, October 16th. We will update you.

> **Additionally:** We have gotten the washer and dryer in the “shed” clear so Jo Ann can do laundry, removed 17 sheets of insulated Styrofoam from doors and windows. cleaned and arranged a leaf/dust filled porch, set up our “offices”, trimmed Oleander bushes, run errands all over town, got the 5th wheel set on a consignment lot for sale, and have been trying to prepare for Bob’s surgery and the beginning of services on November 5th. Gratefully, weather has begun to cool down with highs in the 80’s for the most part.

> **Chapel de Oro Changes:** Several key families are not returning this year, so several changes are taking place on the Board and also in other areas of leadership and ministry. There are at least seven or more key families who are not returning. We are also changing projection systems from the old overhead projector and transparency film to a data projector and PowerPoint, a big change as all songs must be made into PowerPoint slides and a couple people trained to use them. The order of service will also be simplified and streamlined. So, in spite of surgery and rehab, much has to be done before November 5th.

++ Then There’s Our Partnership Ministries:

They are “Partnership Ministries” either coming from our ministry or personal relationships. Sergey was a senior Bob taught at St. James Bible College, Ira was his translator there. Joel helped solidify our Spanish church, Saied is in Bob’s “Preachers Only” Facebook group, “M” led the Farsi ministry from its beginning, and “F” was the first salvation from the Farsi ministry. We want to keep you informed about these ministries.

> **Sergey and Inna:** Several weeks ago we received an extensive report from the Lhavrov’s in Ulan-Ude, Siberia. Their extensive report indicated much hostility but also much fruit. We wish we could print the entire

letter and show all the pictures, but it is impossible. Pastor Sergey reported, *"In June our team distributed 10948 sets of literature, 366 people listened to the Gospel and 159 people repented. Thank God."*

Their ministry has grown to the point that they conduct evangelism training schools, and area pastors are being trained and mentored by Sergey's own people. Note the picture below. They are not only seeing many come to Christ, but are now reproducing themselves in others. Their church recently hosted a missionary conference attended by almost 100 people from 12 churches. Pastor Sergey wrote, *"For the first time we made a prayer for countries and nations in various languages: Armenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Buryat, and Korean."*

> **Joel and Ira Colon:** Two weeks ago we received an update of their ministry with OC International in which they reported that Joel had done lots of preaching and Ira lots of translating, they participated in a huge pro-family rally in Kyiv, This summer they had two teams of missionary graduates working in Ukraine with a tribe of Roma in western Ukraine and another with a church where they developed a children's ministry, helped remodel a church building in a neighboring village, and helped develop a social ministry outreach. Since open evangelism is illegal, the Kyrgyzstan graduates worked with youth and children's camps. Joel still assists the Farsi ministry in developing Bible studies and scripts for their video production.

Their Global Partners Missionary School began Sept 30th with 12 students from Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. They concluded their report by writing, *"Please pray for these students as they start the program, that God would develop their character, & prepare them for ministry. Thank you all for your prayers, your financial support, & your encouragement. We are blessed to be your hands & feet in ministry."*



"Good News" Training school in Ulan-Ude



Missionary graduates & Roma children



"M2" hosting Face To Face TV program

> **Saied and Family:** As far as we know, Saied and his wife are still endangered refugees in Norway. Recently we received a letter from his oldest son living in Eastern Europe, stating they cannot return to Syria because of certain imprisonment or even death. Even now they all live in fear of death because it is forbidden to evangelize people. His brothers soon finish university and will be forced to return to Syria. They will be sought and put to death for betraying their country. It is unsafe for Saied to communicate directly with us, exposing his location. The last thing his son wrote was, *"We are persecuted and we need your prayers and support. We asking you keep praying for us and thank you so much for all what you did for us."*

> **"M" and "M2" in Ukraine and "F" in Germany:** Two months ago Bob talked with "F" in Germany and three weeks ago with "M" in Ukraine. The reports are stunning. The Farsi ministry is clearly the largest social media ministry to Farsi speakers in the world ---- 200,000 Facebook subscribers, over 700,000 "views" per month, over 2,500 Bibles sneaked into I**n in the past three months, over 20 high quality videos produced every month, 1,200 videos on hand, a new Farsi language church planted in Belgrade, Serbia, "M2" leading an online Bible study (first service six people came to Christ), counseling and teaching some 3,000 via social media, a new Farsi mobile App is now operational, and a second satellite network (secular) is now carrying broadcasts along with CBN. It is mind boggling that they do this with only seven people living in four countries.

Also, the translating service they started a few years ago has also exploded with a network of over 500 translators who can translate into 50 languages -- the largest Christian translating service in the world. They translate for major global ministries including gotquestions.com, John Piper, Paul Washer, and Timothy Keller.

++ Finally: You can certainly see that the past several months have been challenging, amazing, and miraculous. We need your undergirding and intercession now more than ever before. We thank God for you daily. Please remember us.

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

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

Bob: -- lifeunlimited@pobox.com. 417-693-5149

Jo Ann: -- grandma12@pobox.com. 417-693-5313

Support Mailing Add: -- Box 228, Collins, MO 64738

Current Add: -- 13650 N. Frontage Rd, #805,

Yuma, AZ 85927