



Issue #143
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Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

“Well, MaGoo, you’ve done it again!” Yes, we have. Longer time between letters usually means longer letters; but we’ll try to avoid that trap this time and make this one as “short and sweet” as we can. Our most recent update letter went out to you three and one-half Months ago! -- at least not eight months like last time. This time, though, we may have a legitimate excuse, and it been a three-month whirlwind . . . and still whirling! So, what is the cause of all of this?

We have finally relocated to Arizona!

We have felt for at least five years that this would eventually happen since most of our ministry time has been in Arizona for the past six years. It seemed evident that God was steadily moving us back to Jo Ann’s home state. After all, she had followed Bob around the world since 1961 (30+ countries, no less!), so it seemed time to make Arizona our official place of residence. We just didn’t expect it to be this year.

Some who get Bob’s “Shoulder To Shoulder” letter and/or follow him on social media may already know at least part of the story. As per our normal annual schedule, we had planned to go back to Missouri for about six weeks this past Spring to continue downsizing and getting our place closer to being sellable, when out of the blue, our daughter, Cheri, called and said some friends were retiring and desperate to get out of the Twin Cities area and wondered if we’d be interested in selling.

This was actually an indicator that it could be the time. We had asked the Lord for several years to send a buyer “out of the blue” to buy our place. We loved our secluded 20 acres we had called home for 24 years, so weren’t in a real hurry. We just planned to get more ready for when that time came. And it did – just sooner than we had anticipated. And due to mass migrations from both coasts and chaotic cities, we immediately knew we had to give serious consideration to Cheri’s inquiry.

We allowed the prospective buyers to see the property while we were still in Arizona. They looked, loved it, asked questions, and wanted to visit again after we had arrived because they “wanted it”. That changed everything, and we had some enormous challenges ahead, including finding a place to call home in Arizona.



Simultaneously, some Alaska friends from our Yuma Chapel had looked at a house in Yuma but decided against it. She “just knew” that Jo Ann would love it. So, we went to look – and she was right. The realtors, wonderful Christians, showed us the place, informing us that there were four other parties waiting to see it. If it was something we wanted, we shouldn’t wait too long.

The sellers had lowered their price again, so we decided to take their current asking price. They accepted the offer, our buyers accepted ours, and the wheels were now turning on both ends. Then it was the long process of building inspections, appraisals, and our buyers' getting financing – three long months.

God's plan was so obvious; for example: -- 1) there were only three properties in our area for sale at the time, and ours wasn't even listed; 2) 18 parties were in line to look at the house we bought in Yuma; and – 3) as far as we can tell, every single person involved in the sale of both properties was a Christian – building inspectors, appraisers, title company personnel, and buyers/sellers. Even a nonbeliever would agree it was "so uncanny!"



The changes are shocking – from 20+ wooded acres and a 2,600 square foot country home with family room, sun room, two decks, an enormous garage/shop and garden shed now to an 1,100 square foot manufactured home on a 60' X 80' lot in a gated retirement community in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. Though not a decision one would expect a sane person to make, it is precisely what the Lord had ordered for us.

Still, it was a hard decision for us and hard for our children and numerous friends to like. Gratefully, as Believers, they also understood. For our family, our place in the Ozarks was the only "back home" they had known for 24 years, so it was painful for them, especially since we were moving halfway across the continent.

Actually Making The Move:

As hard as it was, not a single time did we think we were making a mistake. We knew that it was His plan. The logistics all seemed insurmountable. We had accumulated many personal possessions during our 62 years of married life, stored most of Cindy's and Kevin's possessions while they were on the mission field, and also had over 150 years of family heirlooms and collectibles going back to the 1800's.

We parceled out many things to our girls, Bob gave most of his 4,000+ volume library to pastors, and we sold or gave away all but a handful of furniture pieces we wanted in Arizona, blessing a church and a local Christian school with numerous items of great use to them. One of the greatest blessings was that a nearby church where Bob had served as interim graciously agreed to "piano sit" our family piano (since 1942) for Cindy and Kevin until they return from the mission field. Still, 80+ boxes and footlockers await us in the Yuma house.

In June we completed all transactions. In July we had three rooms and three exterior doors painted. In August we will have kitchen flooring replaced and carpet will be cleaned, and new appliances will be delivered in September and we will get it ready for our arrival in October to begin ministry at Chapel de Oro in November.

About Our Ministry:

House changes are not nearly as important as soul changes. Yet, living in Yuma will likely expand our ministry in three ways – Greer Chapel in the Summer, and Chapel de Oro and Rancho Rialto in the winter.

+ **Greer Chapel** – We knew that the past 18 months had been hard on people, but didn't realize just how hard until this season in Greer. It was clear at our first service on June 6th. No sooner than finishing our first song, "This Is The Day", than our worship leader broke down in tears saying that this was the first time since March of 2020 that she had been able to sing in church. Her home church still isn't singing. Her tears of joy and gratitude helped set the stage for that service and for the entire season. Since then tears have been shed, singing has been amazing, the Holy Spirit has touched lives, and first-timers have been in every service.

Still not back to normal, attendance has been steadily growing. The "aging" process had taken some of our "old timers" from returning, but God has already brought several new families into the community. While our "regulars" are deeply missed, the Chapel is joyous over six to eight new and younger faces joining in.

Bob's preaching theme this year is based on Acts 3:19 – *“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;”* -- **“Longing For Times of Refreshing”**, -- addressing important topics needing to be restored to hearts still hurting and minds still reeling from the events of the past year and a half. Steve Williams uploads them and the study notes.

Those sermons and others since 2016 are all accessible on the Greer AZ Chapel YouTube channel. Go to the following link -- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwckdkurqjYcPbBS-xz0T6g>. The 2021 Greer sermons will appear at the top, with links below to previous seasons in both Greer and Yuma. You can also access PDF versions of the study notes at <https://ln2.sync.com/dl/f45380f10/v3j6b98b-6ucpcte5-v5sxt4xs-hctkcwax> Select the year, and then the specific sermon study guide. Feel free to download and print and/or share.

+ **Chapel de Oro:** -- As you may recall, our 2020 season ended abruptly on March 13th as Canadians had to rush back to Canada and our non-park residents were prohibited from attending. On March 8th we had 169 people, and on March 15th we had fewer than 60. So, when we then our first service of the 2020-21 season, we had 8; our high for the season was 44 instead of nearly 200. We concluded the season with an Easter Sunday service in our Park Model with 24 attending. But the fellowship was sweet to the very end.

Anticipation is already high for our upcoming ministry although the Park is still in a mostly “California-style” lockdown since the owner corporation is based there. We expect things to improve by our first service in November. Currently only long-term residents and others staying a minimum of two weeks are allowed in.

According to recent news reports, Canada will open its borders to vaccinated U.S. citizens on August 9th, but the Biden Administration is “dragging its feet”, not yet agreeing to allowing Canadians to come to the United States except still by air as in the past. The big issue for our Canadian members relates more to their insurance and whether or not it will cover them outside of Canada due to COVID. That’s the big question.

So, we still don’t know what things look like for our November 7th first service. Pray with us that our Canadian members can return. We anticipate an emotional response to being together again there as well, and hope to see a return to the pre-COVID spirit and attendance. We are looking forward to being with the people again.

+ **A Rancho Rialto Possibility:** -- Our new house in Rancho Rialto will primarily function as a “guest” abode for visitors, and will be fully furnished with most of our remaining earthly possessions. However, our ownership does give us a residency in the Park. Because it has over 465 sites primarily consisting of manufactured homes, Park Models, and RV’s, most residents are longer term than at Fortuna de Oro.

Activities in the park are coordinated by a resident committee, and as far as we can tell, no chapel services or Bible studies are listed as park activities. So, we have begun thinking about the possibilities of an additional ministry developing there. This is something we want to seriously pray about. Either way, it will be wonderful to finally “delete” an annual 2,400 mile round trip to Missouri between ministries.

About Miscellaneous Things:

1. Our mailing address remains the same for the Summer. Sometime in October we will create a permanent main address in Yuma, and will notify everyone at that time.
2. Those who support our ministry financially should continue doing what they have been doing until notified otherwise. The Life Unlimited Ministry bank account remains the same as it has been for the past 24 years. We will move that to Yuma probably in October or November, and will notify accordingly.
3. God has been faithful to meet our basic ministry needs even though we have lost some supporters along the way. We thank them for what they have done in the past, and we thank those of you who have been so faithful, particularly during the past two years of increased stress and hardship to you.
4. The best way to contact us is still via e-mail, phone, texting, and/or Facetime, Zoom, or Skype.
5. Both of us have dealt with some physical issues, but nothing serious – mostly back, knee, and weariness issues. Pray for us that all will be resolved.
6. We will provide family updates and related ministries reports in our next letter.

In His Bond, By His grace, and for His Kingdom,
Bob and Jo Ann (the Tollivers)
Life Unlimited Ministries, LUMglobal

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