

Les and Jane Zerbe

In the Heart of Alaska for the Hearts of Alaskans
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Dear friends,

It's -26 and going to -40. We have a man watching our house while we take some time and air miles to go to North Carolina to see my 91 year old Dad. Besides visiting my Dad, we are also traveling to North Carolina to say "Thanks" to seven churches who contributed last year to the \$260 yearly salaries of 130 African pastors in Liberia West Africa. I had never met these pastors before, nor had I spoken in those churches, but they heard of the need from a preacher friend of mine and responded.



My dad, Ludwig Zerbe

Last year, we were invited by a friend to visit Costa Rica, and we went with another missionary couple who spoke Spanish after we returned from Africa. We were blessed with most of the air miles for cheap travel and a friend whose relatives own a hotel in CR with a really good rate for our stay.

While there we hired Juan Carlos, a driver with a van, to take us to various sites. As we were talking about missions and the Lord's ways, the driver commented that he also was a Christian and involved in mission trips to evangelize indigenous tribal villages. He invited us to visit his church to meet the folks from his church who made these evangelistic trips.



Van driver, Juan Carlos

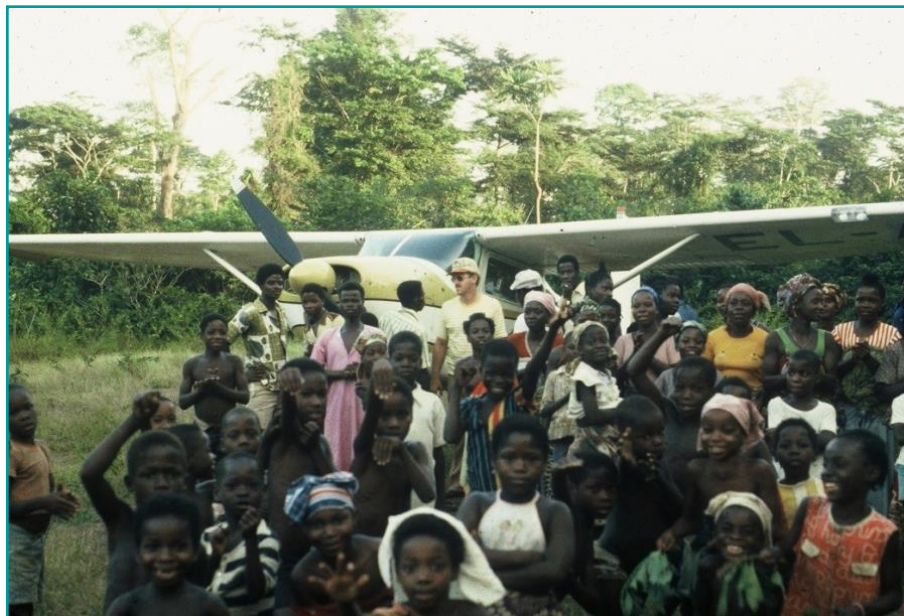
For around a year, these Costa Rican Christians have been walking seven days into the jungle from the nearest road and seven days out each time they visit to bring Christ to remote village people, including several tribes recently discovered. Preaching and teaching for two weeks with the tribes required a month long commitment from the workers. Juan Carlos could no longer go with them; he now had a family to support. After years of missionary aviation experience, I could not help wondering if I could somehow make their trip easier and use less time. After all, I would think that a thirty minute flight as opposed to a fourteen day round trip each month would make sense.

February 10-23, Jane and I will be visiting Costa Rica for a survey trip with Al and Joyce Irvin, who are from a church my Dad started in Montana. Al is a deacon and also a pilot. We plan to hire a local pilot and small plane or helicopter to fly over these villages, seeking to ascertain if the terrain would allow space to build an airstrip.



We are not sure of the exact location of these people in the jungle so the Costa Rican Christians who have been going will have to pin point on a map where they are.

In Liberia, where we were previously missionaries, we had the same kind of jungle growth, but had fifty airstrips, all hand built, throughout the country. A thirty minute plane ride makes more sense than fourteen days' walking. Perhaps a young Christian pilot would dedicate his life to transporting these Costa Rican Christians in their effort reach their own people. Can it work in Costa Rica? Pray that we will see an open door to help these Christians reach their own people with the Gospel.



In Africa, villagers would gather around Les and the plane on remote jungle airstrips.

“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.” Romans 15:20-21

Next we are stopping in Texas to visit supporters and family, including Jane's brother, John Sparling, who recently had surgery for kidney cancer. We plan to be back in Fairbanks March 3, where we will have almost twelve hours of daylight to begin the annual inspection on the plane.

Whether for our Liberian pastors or for our support, we thank you for your faithfulness in giving of your substance and prayer for missions.

Faithfully yours,

Les and Jane Zerbe

SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:

“You ain't getting' me to walk 14 days to work anywhere! Give me a dog team or an airplane!!”



Prayer Post Script:

1. For safety in travel to Costa Rica, to locate the indigenous tribes, and see if a runway can be built.
2. For The Lord of the Harvest to call a Liberian into the ministry to replace one of the 130 pastors we visited last year who passed away this week.
3. For Jane's brother who is battling cancer. He is a believer.
4. For Ludwig Zerbe, who has melanoma and has had 22 surgeries over 16 years on the side of his head. He still lives independently, stoking the wood stove all day long, and is active in church—sings specials, preaches, and shares from his full life as a missionary each month at 'An Evening with Lud.'
5. For wisdom in the annual inspections on the planes this spring.
6. P.S. We need to find someone new to maintain our website, www.farnorthflyingchaplain.com. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

“A man with good heart and no sense is just as miserable as a man with good sense and no heart. “

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