

# Les and Jane Zerbe

## Missionaries in Costa Rica

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January 2, 2020

Dear friends,

Suppose I have a group of millennials in practical training learning about how to survive in a rainforest situation anywhere in the world and this scenario occurs:

Millennial missionary asks, "Anybody have a Kleenex?"

Les: "How do you blow your nose in the rainforest without a Kleenex?"

Millennial: (No response.)

Millennial: "Can I please have my cell phone back? I'll ask Google how to blow my nose in the rainforest without a Kleenex!"

Les: (My next comment which is comical perhaps and misguided is this) "Using a Kleenex is helping to destroy these rain forest you know!"

(Please hold your comments till I see you face to face. I need a good laugh once in a while! A smartphone is not a Kleenex, and when there is no reception, or the battery goes dead, and there are no tissues around, just what do you do? Us farm boys know how to make ourselves comfortable without a Kleenex!)

There's a Millennial problem that has come to my attention. According to the Drudge Report of 12/19/2019, "People now have more digital conversations than speak face-to-face," and "traditional family conversations around the dinner table don't happen anymore." Digital conversations are "proving to be a barrier to the traditional 'deep and meaningful', meaning that we're not getting to the bottom of the issues that matter."

Many would-be Millennials, well-meaning potential missionaries, fail to go to the field, not because they are unwilling or lack a Biblical education, but because they are unprepared practically. *"Inferiority Complaints --8 in 10 Millennials believe they aren't good enough."*

[https://www.studyfinds.org/inferiority-complex-8-in-10-millennials-believe-they-arent-good-enough/?utm\\_source=wnd&utm\\_medium=wnd&utm\\_campaign=syndicated](https://www.studyfinds.org/inferiority-complex-8-in-10-millennials-believe-they-arent-good-enough/?utm_source=wnd&utm_medium=wnd&utm_campaign=syndicated)

Sometimes in our lives, we get used to certain things occurring at a monotonous, slow, rate of progress. It has not been that way with the construction of the new vocational school for potential Millennial missionary candidates. One donor, who shares the conviction that such a school has been needed for some time, has donated the remaining \$30,000 to complete the job! As I write this, the entire 100 foot by 50 foot school should be construction complete in about a month from now!

We are installing the septic system right now, and the school can function. To the new missionary on the field, a non-leaking roof, running and drinking water, solar lights, flush toilets, indoor laundry, and the Mrs. will be happy. Likewise, the missionaries will stay on their fields long term, able to focus on ministry instead of on basic living necessities. The school building itself should be completed by the end of February or first part of March.

There are many things to learn in The Vocational School: basic carpentry, clean water systems, plumbing system that works, mechanics of all sorts, etc. Any extra funds toward the school that come in will go



towards purchasing certain tools, benches, chairs, etc. Other basic things for which the school will need funding: Electricity and water bills which are much cheaper than in the US; Consumables, such as sheetrock screws, nails, welding rod, TP, lumber, lightbulbs, and some basic tool kits for the students. (Supported missionaries will pay a tuition fee.) Missionaries can study and practice Spanish in the same building in the evening.

Please remember, this vocational school will benefit all of you in some way. We are trusting that many of our fundamental Baptist sending agencies will send their new missionaries here for practical training. All the indicators are that you do. The school's teachers are all supported missionaries and retired professionals. Perhaps some of your church's retired tradesmen could come here to teach two week modules of carpentry, electricity, or mechanics.

We are asking you and your next missions conference to possibly consider a place in your budget for this new type of millennial missionary outreach at around \$50.00 per month, not asking for a large amount, but a steady amount long term. One-time gifts are wonderful for a project, but a budget can't be formulated one time gifts. To participate in funding the project, please send your donation to Central Missionary Clearinghouse (CMC) and with a note attached for "Les Zerbe --Vocational School." A tax-deductible receipt will be on its way to you almost immediately. Your partnership in the school will help multiple Ministries you would approve of in a good number of countries worldwide.

I plan to come to the United States next year and see all of you and your respective churches and try to be in your mission conferences, but a lot of mission conference days are in March, and I can't work everyone in that particular month.

We are continually faced with great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems. But we don't wait for our ship to come in; we swim out to it. A man may be saved in a second, but it takes time to build character and experience that will stand the test of life's challenges.

Every chair in in the "horse barn" church was taken last Sunday! Fifty new chairs were purchased, which will give us seating for a while. The church is doing well here-- much better than what naysayers predicted in the past in this strong Catholic area. Additionally, we are using "Rocky" the Bus for church ministries. Next week I will be driving to pick up young people for a youth camp



Les drove the teens to an activity in "Rocky" the bus.

We thank you for your prayers, our personal support and the special Christmas gifts that you sent. Without those we would not be sustainable personally on the mission field to do this thing for you folks.

We are "living our lives for his soon return; planning for the future."

Yours for the future of "practically trained Millennials,"

Les and Jane Zerbe

P.S. "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." --Thomas Jefferson "Making good people helpless won't make bad people harmless." --Popular saying

**Señor Sam Sez:**

*"Mark my good looks. I'm proud of my smart phone and computer I totally rely on, but none of the above ever help me run a chainsaw!"*



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