

# Les and Jane Zerbe

Missionaries in Atenas, Costa Rica  
1-336-844-4368 [zerbe.ak@gmail.com](mailto:zerbe.ak@gmail.com) Text: 907/322-8807

Dear Friends,

January 2021

Last year was a different kind of year, wouldn't you agree? A problem year. In Costa Rica, as in the U.S., the virus continues to frustrate straightforward, strategic planning. Church attendance has suffered some in Atenas, but attendance is starting to climb again. A repeated invitation to come to church bore fruit, as two people trusted in Christ's finished work for salvation a week ago in church. Close to 50% of the people in the country are unemployed which is an untenable situation. Tourism has begun again as the airports were opened to put some folks back to work.

Crime is going up in Costa Rica. The future of Costa Rica and the United States for that matter is in question. If the blood of Abel was an offense to God, how big an offense would 65 million murdered unborn children in the womb be? My experience in Africa and studying history around the world has led me to believe that major disagreements on election results often lead to civil war. Is America immune?

**"Over the Coffee Cup."** Put the hammer and saw down for a while; it's coffee break time! We can solve all the world's problems on coffee break you know! Now some discussion points at coffee break: "A young man is a theory, and old man is a fact," and "Never trust a bush pilot missionary or otherwise, that wears a cap or a belt buckle that has an inscription that says, "Bush pilot'!"

"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth;  
a stranger, and not thine own lips." Proverbs 27:2

Some time ago, a Bible college graduate who was a pilot, was sent to me for an evaluation. We had a 7 a.m. departure in the plane for a long 8-hour flying day to Eskimo land. The missionaries on the other end would be waiting at their little airstrip at 11 a.m., and then I would have a 4-hour trip back to Fairbanks in the afternoon. The prospective missionary pilot showed up at 10 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.!



"What happened?" I asked him.

"I put my family first," he replied.

Sounds pious, maybe even super spiritual. So how long would this pilot have a job if he told his boss in America who asked the question, "Why are you 3 hours late to work this morning?" "Oh, I had to put my family first, you know!" How long do you suppose he would be employed?

The Vocational School has many **"over the coffee cup"** lessons to learn. "Let another man praise thee and not their own mouth a stranger and not thine own life lips." "Better-late-than-never" doesn't work either. Costa Rica and coffee breaks are wonderful, aren't they!

I have a standing original rule that I teach Millennial students which I call the "Rush Hour Traffic Rule." That is, everyday there are financial supporters in churches all across America who go to work, some who have never met the missionaries they are supporting. They sit in rush hour traffic an hour to work each day and an hour back to the house.

Note to self; my family may come first in some instances, but if my supporters also give to missions and work eight hours a day and spend two hours in traffic, as a missionary, I should put in an honest 10-hour day. "Nobody ever drowned in sweat." "Sometimes we have to give up on people, not because we don't care. but because they don't."

"Be thrifty but not covetous." Money is usually attracted not pursued." Remember in the Bible when people in a church had to beg Paul to take a gift from the church? Paul never went on deputation or asked for money to complete a ministry. "Money is only a tool you don't take to heaven with you...It will take you where you want to go on Earth, but it will not replace you as the driver!" "Being frugal does not mean being cheap, it means being economical and avoiding waste." I have put those thin slivers of soap together all my life. After surveying a number of our friends, I've been surprised how many others do the same. Soap is relatively cheap, but the lesson is, you can waste your life by throwing away little bits of valuable time again and again.



My bar of soaps

**Time for an 8-ounce Americano with two shots of espresso** and some half and half. Isn't school great!

About \$6000 has come in towards the \$15,000 bus project to move this bus to the seaport of Miami and to Costa Rica, and no one has called for their donation to be returned as of December 2020. Therefore, I'm moving forward with the bus project to drive the bus south in the spring. Having a breakdown or hitting a moose or caribou at minus 50 degrees, I could freeze to death really quickly! I say, "Lord willing," I'll drive south in April or May and stop at some supporting churches on the way to report of the ministry in Costa Rica. I plan on stopping in Montana, South Dakota, Iowa, and several others on the way to the barge in Miami, FL. The bus will be my motel and restaurant on the way south. This will depend on the virus situation in Canada. My prayer is, "Lord, You know what I need."



Should you desire to send a special gift for the Costa Rica bus project, write your check to "Central Missionary Clearinghouse" and include a note stating: "for Les Zerbe – bus project."

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Faithfully yours,  
Les Paul Zerbe

Señor Sam Sez:  
"I'm all coffee-ed out and  
twice as smart!"  
(Coffee drinkers make  
better thinkers!)



P.S. "Hey, Millennials! Would you consider being a missionary if there were no Internet or cell phone service? The average person spends seventeen hours a day on Digital devices. That's about 44 years of your lives in front of a screen! So says the Internet!



**CENTRAL MISSIONARY CLEARINGHOUSE, P.O. Box 219228 - Houston, Texas 77218-9228**  
**1-800-CMC-PRAY**

Sending Church: **Lavon Drive Baptist Church, 1520 Lavon Drive, Garland, TX 75040**