

Les and Jane Zerbe

Helping missionaries reach remote ministry locations through aviation.

Contact Information: zerbe.ak@gmail.com Text: 907/322-8807

1-336-844-4368 reaches us in Costa Rica

April 2017

Dear Partners in the ministry,

Driving with the crazies!

I spent 6 hours in line to get a Costa Rica driver's license. There was a guard at the entrance to the DMV with a gun, and he had me take off my baseball cap before he let me through the door. His boss was on break, so we were advised of a long wait. Note to self-number one--don't lose your place in line. Number two--don't complain or your passport may get lost. Actually I like the way Costa Ricans drive. Their attitude is just get 'er done! Speed limits, double yellow lines--oh, so what! If you can't run with the dogs, don't get off the porch! I am prepared; I spent some time driving in Africa!

So you want to come on a work team or visit the Cabécar Indians in the rain forest? Your visit starts with "Machete Days." Costing only five dollars, a machete is a very common tool here, carried by many locals in the country to kill snakes in the sugarcane and jungle. Mine is shaving sharp! I may use it to cut meat. For example, this oxtail (at right) makes a rich soup, see an [old](#) cookbook or the internet for the recipes. Next one of my poor roosters is going into a stew pot, and Jane makes the best homemade chicken soup! With a little ingenuity and a machete, I can make a jungle bench or chair from vines and saplings or a bed above ground in a hurry. There are many other uses as well for a razor sharp machete:

- ✓ Cut open a coconut in one swipe with a machete to drink the milk.
- ✓ Make an outhouse for the ladies in 5 minutes using jungle supplies.
- ✓ Make a jungle toothbrush in 3 minutes from a green twig.
- ✓ Cut a jungle path so we can walk around a mud hole of unknown depth.
- ✓ Cut a walking stick or shave.
- ✓ Kill a chicken-eating critter in half, like the zarigueya (possum).
- ✓ Make rain shelter from palm tree branches

In fact, I have started to "open carry" in Costa Rica, open carry my machete on my Suzuki motorcycle to protect myself from a few misguided people (who inhabit every country). The other day two bad guys tried to stop my motorcycle. When one got off the back of their motorcycle and came towards me, I did a small wheelie and evaded him as I left the scene. The driver of their motorcycle tried to quickly turn his motorcycle around to follow me, but in his rush to catch me, ran smack-dab into a moving car, which sent him flying! Twenty minutes later I attached a razor sharp machete in a holster to my cycle. You will need one in the jungle.

Iglesia Bautista Victory Atenas (Victory Baptist)--the horse barn church-- is doing well. We've seen the Lord at work in the lives of people and changing families. Pray for salvation and grounding in the Word. Another building about 200 feet from the church similar in design--an open sided rancho, we use for children's church and fellowship hall. I could use a work team around this November--December to help me install a new tin roof. The job is three days at most, and then I could drive you around on a day tour.

There is a 30 passenger Toyota bus for sale for \$5,300.00 USD, with a new diesel engine that would be good for 500,000 miles. Parts replaced include transmission, motor and transmission mounts, U-joints, carrier bearings, and brakes. We would like to purchase this bus for the church to save some folks from a 4-mile walk each way, for church activities, and also to haul work teams around. A Costa Rican pastor from another church told us about it and that this bus is a steal! Now this is not in our budget, only our dreams. We are told by missionaries in Costa Rica and local pastors that in the strong Catholic area we are in, church growth will be slow.



"Iron sharpeneth iron."



Preparing oxtail for soup



Time for chicken soup!

This bus will help in many ways and areas of church growth. Most of our congregation makes \$200 to \$600 a month, but since we were able in one year to change a horse barn into a church debt free, going into debt for the bus is not an option. If any of us only made \$600 per month, do you think we could get a bank to loan us \$5,300? The real life situation here is the bus won't be around forever, so if partial funds come in for the bus, but it is no longer available, we would ask you if the funds you sent could be used elsewhere or we would be glad to send your gift back to you. Just specify to CMC. **"Lord, you know what we need."**

We were visited last week by the rancher in Costa Rica who lives close to the Cabécar Indians, a four hour drive from us in Atenas. You may recall he gave us a beautiful church on his property to use to reach the Cabécar Indians in the rainforest. He also built a really nice runway in front of the church. Both the church and the airport are free for our use! We hope to have a resident missionary there full-time, and we think they may be there soon. The Rancher was really impressed with IBVA-- the horse barn church we have in Atenas. "In English I can't tell you how I felt when I was in the church," he said. He asked questions about what Baptists believe. Pray for him and his family.

Faithfully yours,

Les and Jane



The neighbor's dog alerted us and treed the chicken-eating possum; the machete ended that problem.



Toyota Coaster Bus-- 30 passenger



Iglesia Bautista Victoria Atenas
"I can't tell you in English how I felt when I was in the church!"



"Hey, Zerbe! Just try to get rid of me! A little sunshine might cheer me up!
--Sourdough Sam

