

Les and Jane Zerbe

Helping missionaries reach remote ministry locations through aviation.
1-336-844-4368 reaches us in Costa Rica

January 2017

Dear friends,

It's 5 AM, and I'm always up at this time. The sun comes up at 5:30 and two roosters who command 35 chickens (reduced from 90 chickens) are crowing, the hens proud of their 22 per day egg production; and I'm on the porch watching the sun come up, listening to Alexander Scourby, reading the Drudge Report, and enjoying a good cup of coffee from my neighbor, who grows the best.

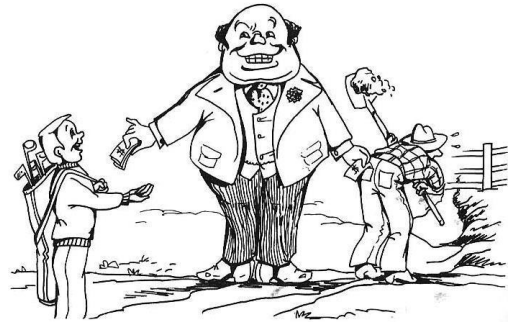


Today will be getting ready for a work team of 16 people coming from a church in Maryland. This involves planning for airport pickup, housing, the work team's abilities and experience, i.e. what can they do in a time frame and a skill level? How and where do we feed them? Are they bringing appropriate people who can help cook? Do some have certain things they can't eat? How many married couples are coming; where do they stay? How many girls and young men? And where do they stay? Who is going to lead devotions? Do they have a team leader? Is there a preacher among them? Or any of them handicapped? Are they bringing funds to help buy food? How and where will they do laundry? Do they bring their own towels and washcloths? Have all their questions about what to wear, snakes, bugs, etc. been answered? Has each one been told to bring a flashlight?

How many of them are self-starters? How many of them need to be given each job with complete instructions on how to accomplish the job? Do any of them or what percentage can pound a nail, read a measuring tape in meters, or saw a straight line with a handsaw? Do they require mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks? How much time do they want to spend seeing Costa Rica? Does any want the hardcore experience of doing something with the Cabécar Indians in the rainforest? Will they eat an unknown food the Cabécars might prepare for them, or will they ruin a relationship by turning up their noses at the unfamiliar offer? If the Cabécars offer them a cup of their coffee with creek water, will they drink the coffee without cream and sugar? Are they afraid of flying in a small plane to get to the Cabécars or do they get airsick easily? Note: just because someone gets airsick, doesn't mean we turn back. Live with it!

If somehow the plane gets disabled can they, are they willing to walk 8 hard days to the nearest road? Note: the Cabécars make it in 7 days, but they are in shape and don't stop to rest every 20 minutes. What if you really do get very ill halfway in the trek out? What then? Can they ride a horse? Are they willing to kill a snake with a machete? How many come with only flip-flops? Like Gideon's men, who drank water the wrong way, they don't get to see the Cabécars. Are they willing to shake a hand or give a hug to a society that does not have or use toilet paper? Do they know which end of a chicken an egg comes from? Will they eat an egg if first they have to wash off chicken poo? How much real life do they really know apart from Walmart and stop lights? Trust me! These are only a few of the questions that arise concerning a work team coming to help.

This 5:45 a.m. cup of coffee is almost down. Trump is saying he's going to "drain the swamp." The Democrats are in retreat, but many are still whining. Obama is building a wall around his house so that a Chicagoan won't shoot him. "This world is not my home; oh, I'm just passin' through!"



Federal Government Transfer Payments

My house started out as a humble two bedroom farm house. A later owner added a modern kitchen and a bathroom with "on demand" hot water. From my chair on the porch I hear what sounds like a cannon going off nearby. A quick check revealed that the water heater shut off switch stuck, the pressure relief valve did not work, and the hot water heater became a non-vented pressure cooker which just blew up! There's water running full bore in all directions! Can't find the water cut off valve to the whole house. Just wish I could have one dull day! I have to go wake up the man who knows the layout of this place, wait for him to get dressed, by the time I get the water shut off, water covers the floors. Fortunately, all floors here are concrete and tile, so after many gallons of water pushed out the door, I have the cleanest floors in Atenas! The Cabécar rainforest Indians don't have this problem. A bucket with water in it doesn't blow up!

This work team from Maryland was just excellent! The major thing they did was put a tile floor in the horse barn church. They did many other things, sound system upgrade and painted. It no longer looks like a horse barn: new rafters, roof, drop ceiling, wiring, lights, tiled kitchenette counter, shiny new sink, running water, stove, microwave, mini fridge make a huge difference. The work team also put on a really good VBS for the community, and two children were saved!

After a scrambled egg breakfast cooked by a church member for the entire church on New Year's Sunday (using eggs from our worn-eating chickens), we had a regular service, a child dedication and baptism of two people.

It is an honor to be your representatives. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Les Paul Zerbe

SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:
*Let's hope he really can
drain the swamp!!*



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