

Les and Jane Zerbe

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

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Greetings from the Zerbes and Victory Baptist Church in Atenas, Costa Rica,

There is no need to send any more funds for the 30 passenger Toyota bus, as about five Partners or co-workers came up with all but \$600 for the \$5,300 Toyota Church bus. I will put the last \$600 up myself, and the church may at some time be able to chip in some. You have made it possible for this to happen. We are very grateful to all of you who pray and give.

The bus will be used to transport church folks with victory but also several other good churches in Costa Rica when they have a special need, work teams that come to Costa Rica, campers. The man who owned the bus is a businessman and not a mechanic. So when the bus started really bouncing down the road for him, he replaced the diesel engine, transmission, parking brake assembly, U-joints, carrier bearings, new brakes. After I verified all this new stuff, he asked me would I like to drive it. I said no don't need to, but you have to deliver the bus to our church. He agreed and did so. After he left the yard, I gave the bus a more careful look. Wedged between one set of dual tires on the rear was a 5-pound rock! I had to remove the outside tire to get the rock loose to get it. That rock had created a huge imbalance, so we got a great bus because of a 5 lb. Rock!



Iglesia Bautista Victoria church bus

Now this brings up another matter. God cannot use some missionaries to the fullest not because they are not willing, but because they are not prepared. So now a prayer request: should I start at our camp in Atenas, Costa Rica, a practical skills mentoring program for prospective missionaries, so as to give experience in basic skills--carpentry, plumbing, mechanics, electricity, how to ride a small motorcycle and stay alive, how to pound a nail, and swing a paint brush? Ladies could be taught meal planning, preparation, preservation, and food safety in the tropics. These prospective missionaries could go through "jungle boot camp" in the rain forest.

Here is some of my resume that has helped me along the way.

- Learned to milk cows by hand at an early age.
- Learned "baling wire" mechanics from my dad in Africa and my uncles in Montana.
- Can brand cattle, ride an ATV, or a horse
- Learned to drive tractors, trucks, combines and other farm equipment at an early age.
- Can operate any size farm tractor and any size caterpillar or equivalent, any size tractor, or backhoe, road grader, self-propelled compactor, Bobcat or other equipment.
- Collins radio line technician 1966 through 1968, worked with contractors and subcontractors.
- Can defensive and offensive drive
- Drive a semi-truck for 1 million miles in the 1970's with no accidents.
- Tune a car or truck.
- Overhaul diesel, gas, and airplane engines with my A and P mechanics rating.
- Can fly a variety of aircraft with a private pilot license, commercial, instrument, and tailwheel endorsement.
- Crop dusting in the 70's in a 185 Cessna.

- Can shoot bow and arrow, crossbow, and any caliber rifle from 50 BMG to a pellet gun.
- Make a poison arrow from a frog in the rainforest.
- Plan a house; follow a blueprint; build a house.
- Pour a concrete slab; Install a septic system to code. Wire a house,
- Cut down logs and build natural log house with septic--all labor free with volunteer help
- Run a multi tester. Sharpen a saw, chainsaw, knife, and machete.
- Work as machinist and lathe operator.
- Can weld all sorts of metal. Tig, Mig, wire feed, Arc, and acetylene welding.
- Can raise and butcher cattle, chickens, and hunt and butcher Iguana lizards, crocodiles, moose, Dall sheep, caribou, and black bear.
- Can shoot a cat off Grandma's lap at 100 yards or a squirrel in a spruce tree at 50ft.
- Rebuilt a wrecked airplane in Liberia 1972 to 1973.
- Iditarod Dog Race chaplain in Alaska.
- Have flown private plane in all states except Hawaii. Have flown in the Bahamas and St. Thomas in the Caribbean on mission's trips and through much of Mexico (assisting Bearing Precious Seed Ministries), Canada, and all over Alaska for 36 years.
- Missionary Aviation 1973 to present--over 21,000 hours flying in the bush and still alive!
- Pastor, missionary, camp and conference speaker, radio broadcaster, and master barbecue chef.

Jane says the motto for me should be this: "The difficult I do immediately; the Impossible takes a little longer!"

Over the years I've been privileged to have mentors to teach me these skill sets, but the age of farming and spending time with all those right opportunities and people is harder to come by these days. If I were to start a missionary practical skills mentoring program, I would need a full-time man to teach the men the skills they need and a woman to teach the ladies how to can and grow a garden. No Greek or Hebrew spoken in this school, but a quality experience none the less. What do you think about this idea?

Faithfully yours,

Les and Jane Zerbe

SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society—the optimist invents the airplane; the pessimist the parachute!



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