

Les and Jane Zerbe

Helping missionaries reach remote ministry locations through aviation.

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Rain Forest, Costa Rica

January 2016

Dear Supporting friends,

We were on the way to Costa Rica this fall to start up the aviation ministry to the Cabécar Indians and are also planning with local Costa Rican pastors and missionaries who want to start both Spanish and English-speaking churches where we will be living in Atenas. We stopped in North Carolina to see my 93 year old dad Ludwig Zerbe and participate in a mission conference at the church he attended. He preached the initial message Wednesday, October 21, on the need for more missionaries because the fields are white unto harvest. Just a few days later, he went to the hospital because of such pain he could not sleep. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We buried dad next to mom only month later, November 21st.



Ludwig "Lud" Zerbe

He was always in touch with God and the ministry and out of touch with his own comfort. He and Mom were of those early pioneer missionaries who were seemingly unstoppable. Dad was part of the earliest airplane ministry to Liberia West Africa, as well as numerous other ministries. Dad saw there were only two mistakes along the road to truth - - not going all the way and not starting.

Growing up as a farm boy in Montana, he learned how he could creatively fix almost anything, the proverbial baling wire not too far away. His "git 'er done" attitude was evident in so many areas. We all teach by example in some way. Lud Zerbe was a good one for me to follow. Yet he never was like a rooster who took credit for the dawn. It was **"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."** Psalm 115:1 He is now a fallen warrior, a man whose life needs to be remembered. <http://www.farnorthflyingchaplain.com/remembering-ludwig-zerbe.html>

Dad helped to start a four year Bible Institute in Tappita, Liberia, where a large number of future Liberian pastors were trained for the ministry. Two years ago after a very long civil war, I went back to Liberia, to see how many men were still pastoring a church. At a conference in Monrovia, 130 pastors showed up. You may recall that, thanks to you and your care for these people, we were able in 2013 to give each pastor and the widows of pastors \$260. Once again I'm asking you to donate \$300 as a one-time gift in 2016 in memory of Ludwig Zerbe to sponsor one Liberian pastor's salary for a year. This donation can be given over the next year and would be sent to Central Missionary Clearinghouse with a note attached for **"Les Zerbe Liberian pastors' conference."** Remember "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord, and that which he hath given will he pay him again." Proverbs 9:17.

I plan to go there again next winter to deliver these funds. Some of you may want to join me. Want to see a country still recovering from the ravages of war, which also had a major Ebola disease epidemic? This is your chance. No problem! The good pastors and the Lord will take care of us. It's something every one of us should experience at least once. I will keep you posted as to how the pastors' fund is progressing.



2013 Pastors' Conference in Monrovia, Liberia

Several of the older preachers have passed away or had major health issues. Younger men are stepping into their places. However, the attendance at the

Bible College is down because that Ebola epidemic caused havoc to the economy.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/10/01-ebola-outbreak-west-africa-sy-copley> .

Pastor Vaye wrote us about the college:

“We do not have scholarships for the students. In the past, some of those from the interior were allowed to live on campus and take care of the yard and be allowed to pay little fees. But now since Ebola we do not have anyone on campus. Many students find it hard to even pay the little fees we charge. As the result, some owe... Scholarship cost for a student for the year including books will cost \$325.” “Teachers are literally doing voluntary services. Many of us are pastors who have dedicated our services to the college for years now. We take home...less than USD \$ 20.” “Many of us teachers have completed our master program on line and some by correspondence with seminaries in the US...”

Remembering my father’s commitment to training the future pastors of Liberia, a second project is critical--the **Ludwig Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund** at the Bible College in Monrovia, which will assist dedicated students as they prepare to replace their elders and their teachers.

You all are wonderfully caring, generous people. Gifts for African pastors and rice for needy in November was \$500. December was \$1300. We thank you for helping these Liberian pastors and for our support which makes these spiritual connections possible. These connections have eternal value for all of us who pray, give, and go. I hope you have a wonderful 2016, and that God will somehow spare and bless the USA again.

Just 3 weeks before his death was the start of the mission conference at which my father Ludwig Zerbe preached the opening message. He spoke of the need for workers to go into the fields to harvest souls waiting to hear God's Word. We ask with Dad:

**“Who will go into the harvest? Will it be you?
Will it be your children? Or your grandchildren?
Or will you send missionaries on their way, supporting in prayer and finances?”**

Sincerely,

Les Paul Zerbe

P.S. The paper I write on is damp; the rain forest is exactly that. The Cabécar Indians inhabit this jungle in various areas, and most are without the Gospel and safety nets of all sorts which we take for granted. In late November, we arrived in Costa Rica in time to see four tents full of teen boys in the side yard and four tents in the back yard full of teen girls for youth camp. We have allowed local Baptist pastors to use our property for youth meetings, men’s and women’s retreats, and church planning sessions. Many of these churches are in cities where the people live in houses on tiny lots with no yards, making our big yard seem like a park. Folks have been saved even in our absence. Two of our grandchildren are visiting us presently and yesterday came within three feet of one of the most poisonous snakes of the world, the “eyelash viper.”

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eyelash_viper

SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim. 2:2

