

Les and Jane Zerbe

Missionaries in Costa Rica

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Dear friends,

“Lord, you know what I need,” is our daily prayer. Some things I know that I need every day, such as patience; this virus situation has brought that to clear focus. The virus has affected bus travel from Alaska to Miami, and Costa Rica has every hospital bed full of covid patients. There are also serious travel restrictions in Costa Rica as well, that is, no one can be on the roads after 9 p.m. and no travel at all on certain days. Our day is Tuesday. I'm not a fan of slow mode. “Just git ‘er done,” is my motto, as I follow my to do list. But many things remain out of our control, and the Lord knows what we need.

There are serious things going on in Baptist missions in general these days. As the virus has advanced, many of our supporting churches have canceled all services, except Sunday



morning. That one service per week is usually reserved for the pastor. This means that even us missionaries on furlough, who need to visit and report to the church, are having a hard time making a report to the church because of scheduling problems. And since there is no evening service and no Wednesday service, where is the missionary going to spend the week—in motels, eating meals in restaurants until the next possible Sunday service (which may be in another state)? With very little or in many cases no access to a congregation at a church, missions will be seriously affected. There is a domino effect that can have serious long-term effects. “Lord, you know what we need.”

The indigenous tribe of Cabecar Indians in the Costa Rica rainforest are still waiting for a pilot to fly an airplane to where they are. As you recall, our first pilot who was to take the ministry to the Cabecars contracted a strange disease and passed away in 3 days. Our last prospective pilot blew out his knee and cannot fly the plane ever again. So, we have an airplane with no pilot, and the airplane is like a brand-new plane, in excellent condition. We need a bush pilot with bush pilot qualifications, he needs to have missionary support, he needs to be 45



years old or younger, and have all his pilot ratings through instrument rating, including a commercial rating and also have an A and P mechanic rating and knows or is willing to learn Spanish. A rancher near the Cabecar Indians has provided a brand-new runway for us and has built a hanger for the airplane as well, at no cost or expense to us. A 7-day hard walk to the Indians through the jungle can be shortened to 20 minutes with the Maule aircraft that is available for that ministry.

I would like for you to talk to me, pray for the situation and help me to know what I should do with the plane, as it can't sit forever and get moldy or mildew. So, we're going to wait on the Lord to see what needs to be done in the future. The Lord knows what we need.

At the height of the pandemic, there was 50% unemployment in Costa Rica. If the virus keeps ruling the world, it may be the vocational school will have to become a refugee center for a while. We have already been sharing food with some of the church people and some of our neighbors.



"Teach a man to fish...."

The best way to contact us is to send a text at 907-322-8807, or an email at zerbe.ak@gmail.com. We also have a direct phonenumber to Costa Rica which is 1-336-844-4368. Mail service is either non-existent or unreliable. A mission statement for The Vocational School is this quote: "God often cannot use a Christian, not because he is unclean, but because he is unprepared ."

Are we prepared for a different America? The scripture says in 1st Samuel 23:3: "the Lord God of Israel said, the rock of Israel said to me, he that rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." Romans 13:3: Rulers are not a terror to Good Works...." "He is the Minister of God to thee for good." We missionaries on the foreign field are depending on your prayers and financial support for our success on the mission field on your behalf.

A big thank you to all who still help our African pastors with funds for rice each month. More on this later, but we hope to go back to Liberia at some point in time, Lord willing. Good news, in the last year, six new churches have sprung up in the capital city of Monrovia, Liberia, besides the 30 that were there. So now there are 36 Baptist churches. Thank you for helping these men who are pastoring there for \$20 per month.

Blessings,

Les and Jane Zerbe

Señor Sam Sez:

"The time is short; bring the wandering ones to Jesus."



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