

# Les and Jane Zerbe

*Missionaries in Costa Rica*

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

January, 2018

Dear friends,

Thanks to your faithful giving, I've been able to buy a \$177 Italian-made chainsaw here in Atenas. I can now almost put the axe and machete away. I'm going to use this marvelous sawdust maker to remove a papaya tree that could fall on our one bedroom house. I think I'm in "Hillbilly Heaven" with this "Ferrari" of chainsaws.

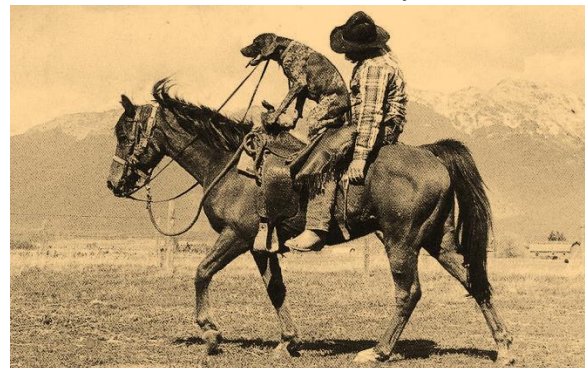
Speaking of chainsaws and the ministry, we had a millennial group of young people come to Alaska several years ago for several projects, one of which was cutting up a semi load of 50 foot trees into wood stove lengths. They all wanted to run the chainsaw, but not one knew how. They were like a calf looking at a new gate. One guy was rolling the chainsaw on a tree and wondered why it wasn't doing anything! When I started the saw, he wondered how come it made so much noise and sawdust. After I showed the students how to mix the gas with 2-cycle oil, adjust and sharpen the chain, fill with properly mixed fresh gas, bar oil reservoir full, when to choke and when not to choke, how the throttle trigger works, carburetor adjustment screws and what they do, how does the inertial brake lever work, and why is it very important. Also why a man with long hair or a person with a dangling neck scarf or baggy clothes should not operate a chainsaw! They also must know how to grease the front bearing on the guide bar, why steel toe boots are preferable, why a face shield and mask is advisable, why you don't cut concrete with a chainsaw, and why you don't use a chainsaw on a ladder.



What do you do when a tree for several reasons pinches the saw? How do you use a wedge? How do you use a rope to make a tree fall in a certain way? How do you check and clean the spark plug and air cleaner? Why not to store it for extended periods of time with the same gas? Why you have an escape route when a tree is felled? What is "kick back" and what causes it? How do you make a tree fall a certain direction? What do you do when a tree gets caught in another tree and doesn't fall all the way to the ground? Enough of this, but one last question: Why shouldn't you loan your chainsaw, airplane, grass mower, or toothbrush to someone else? They'll never come back to you the same! Catch my drift?

Using a chain saw safely is just one element of the knowledge I'd like to teach at a practical skills school for missionaries. I'm still not sure of all the details of a school like this, but I'm told it's sorely needed.

I'm encouraged by many, including Dr. Clayton B Shumpert, to establish such a school and make it available to missionaries in the US and young men being trained for the ministry in Central America. We have four and a half acres here debt-free. We could provide a place for these missionaries to stay on site while training and they could learn Spanish in the evenings. There are cooking facilities on the property here already for groups. Church services are provided here in the "horse barn church." I can also teach them gardening in our large garden, chicken raising and butchering, vehicle maintenance, the use of various tools correctly, and "when to let a better Cowboy ride this horse."



In order to maximize the ministry here, we need to build a simple multipurpose building. Here are some one sentence facts about the multipurpose building project:

1. The property here is debt free, with a clear title and has a corporation to protect it legally.
2. A foundation and an endowment fund will be in place to keep the ministry ongoing.
3. No subdividing of the land will be allowed.
4. The property will be used in perpetuity for Victory Baptist Church (the “horse barn church”) and as a campground to which Costa Rican churches may bring their young people, hospitality for missionaries, Central American national pastors and visiting speakers.
5. Support headquarters for the airplane ministry to the remote Cabécar Indians in CR and Panama.
6. A four year Bible college course in Spanish with the curriculum entirely on DVD has been offered to me free of charge. All we need is this building. The horse barn church can also be used for a classroom or study hall.
7. The simple multipurpose structure would be used as a missionary vocational school, as well as a place for families and or students to live. Spanish Language School can also be taught in the early AM. and evenings.

Those wanting an experience at the next level can go tent camping with me in the Cabécar rainforest for a week. Once these missionaries learn some carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, electricity, concrete work and welding and spend a week in the rainforest, they should be more ready for the big under-developed world out there or they'll weed themselves out.

Mission statement: to provide for maximum every day usage of the four and a half acres in Atenas, Costa Rica. Property shall be kept in perpetuity according to law in corporate and foundation status in Costa Rica to be used in the following manner.

- A. Victory Baptist Church shall have permanent right to access and use of the “horse barn church” and other portions of the property agreed to by the Zerbes or subsequent board members.
- B. Property shall be open at all times for hospitality to work teams, missionaries, and national pastors. It shall be available at all times for youth camps and retreats. Bible college, outreach center to the Cabécar Indians, Missionary Training Center, Spanish Language School.
- C. Some well-meaning but misinformed person in my view says God's house shall not be used or should not be used to teach missionaries carpentry and how to change oil in their vehicle. And I say, let's talk about the use or lack thereof of God's house. In most churches I know about, the people really dress up with suits and ties Sunday morning, and the ladies buy all new clothes for Easter Sunday morning, but on Sunday night the ties and the coats come off, and on Wednesday night blue jeans and casual are the norm. I don't have a serious problem with that, except that it appears God's house is less God's house in the PM and Wednesday meetings than on Sunday. We know this is not so. The multipurpose building would be used every day, all day for some good purpose, and will keep the sun and rain from spoiling the activities of the day. It will actually be used more than a church that sits vacant all week.

- D. We have received a quote of \$35,000 for a 70 foot wide by 100 foot long building all concrete and steel construction. It would be open on all sides; all the backhoe work would be done; concrete floor would be strong enough to support a 14-yard loaded dump truck; it would be free standing with steel trusses; and would have a 50-year steel roof. There would also be a 100 foot double-wide driveway to tie into the existing easement. The building would be wired for electricity with outlets and lights installed sewer and water pipes installed in the



This is similar to the proposed multipurpose building

concrete floor, no heat or air conditioning will be needed in this building. This all steel building (which is termite proof) would be open on all sides with no bedrooms, toilets, or security bars. This is a quote from a bona fide Costa Rican contractor who is a Christian and has done good work here before. As he puts it, “I will build this structure for you with love.”

E. Here is how we would structure the project.

1. I am told this building will have very little labor expense, mostly just the cost of materials only. Because the wages are low in Cosa Rica (a good contractor makes \$3.50 per hour, and a laborer makes \$2.00), most of the \$35,000 would go towards materials.
2. Progress reports would be sent in our letters as to how the funding is going.
3. If after one year, the \$35,000 goal has not been met, each person's good faith investment would be returned to the penny to the donor.
4. A special fund would be set up at Central Missionary Clearinghouse for this project
5. There would be no modified appeals from us such as "would you mind if we spend it on another project?" The funds would just be sent back to you the donor.

This project is not just merely a church plant, but it's designed to provide "Timothys" to reproduce Christian ministries throughout the world. If any donors would like to see the corporate papers and the foundation papers just call me at [+1-336-844-4368](tel:+1-336-844-4368) or email at [zerbe.ak@gmail.com](mailto:zerbe.ak@gmail.com). The books will always be open for the donor's inspection.

Faithfully yours,

Les and Jane Zerbe



*In October, son Jarrod and wife Claudia had their first baby, Raene Grace Zerbe. Grandpa says, "My new grandbaby is prettier than your grandbaby!"*

**On New Year's Resolutions**

**SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:**

*I like what Ben Franklin said:*

*"Resolve to perform what you ought;  
perform without fail what you resolve."*



**Contact Information: [zerbe.ak@gmail.com](mailto:zerbe.ak@gmail.com)**

**Text: 1-907/322-8807**

**Phone: 1-336-844-4368** is a free international call which rings our phones in Costa Rica

**CENTRAL MISSIONARY CLEARINGHOUSE, P.O. Box 219228 - Houston, Texas 77218-9228 1-800-CMC-PRAY**

Please make all checks out to "CMC" and attach a note "For the ministry of Les Zerbe"

Sending Church: **Lavon Drive Baptist Church, 1520 Lavon Drive, Garland, TX 75040**

## THE GREAT NEED FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN MISSIONS

The educational level of missionaries has greatly increased in the last 25 years. Many have post-graduate degrees. One missionary had a Ph.D. as a nuclear physicist. Nonetheless, most missionaries are lacking in the vocational skills. Are they good missionaries? YES! But they lack training in vocational skills.

There is a great need to train missionaries in these areas:

- BASIC VEHICLE MAINTENANCE
- BASIC CONSTRUCTION SKILLS
- HOW TO WIRE A SMALL BUILDING
- UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES OF PLUMBING
- AND SIMILAR TRAINING SESSIONS

Missionaries need it and missionaries will accept such training if made available to them. In this generation missionaries are computer literate and that can be used for God's glory. We almost envy those people who are multi-talented. They can do everything. But those people are rare. Most of us need training.

Such a ministry to train missionaries is in the planning stages right now in beautiful Costa Rica. It will be enjoyable and educational.

A missionary needs to preach the Gospel **AND** know how to change the oil in his vehicle. A missionary needs to conduct the worship service **AND** know how to construct a church building. One great missionary built a church and the building was 8 inches out of square. If he only had a little training! This type of training will be possible very soon. Watch for more information.

### B. Clayton Shumpert

Dr. B. Clayton Shumpert pastored Grace Baptist Church in West Columbia, SC for 21 years and has worked with Baptist International Missions for many years, traveling with skilled men worldwide to help missionaries build projects they could otherwise not accomplish by themselves. I have personally flown a group of his workers in my small airplane from Alabama to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, to assist in the rebuilding of a Bible College that was leveled by Hurricane Hugo a few years ago. --Les Paul Zerbe



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YES! With God's help I would like to help build this building. I plan to give in the next 90 days:

\$100

\$500

\$200

\$1,000

\$300

Other \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Matt: 6:33—"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...."

If you wish to donate to this project, please make out your check to Central Missionary Clearinghouse and include a note stating it is for "Zerbe -- vocational training center."

**CENTRAL MISSIONARY CLEARINGHOUSE, P.O. Box 219228 - Houston, Texas 77218-9228**