

Bentleys' Prayer Corner – Oct '24

Dear Friends,

Five days after returning from the last month-long trip to the northeast of the US and Nova Scotia for various meetings, we weathered the effects of Hurricane Helene in western NC. We were without electricity, water, internet, and fuel for a week. Even mobile cell phone signal was out for 5 days, so we were all in a communications vacuum. Trees, telephone poles and lines were down everywhere, blocking the roads. Four huge oaks came down where we live, but they missed the buildings.

After the storm subsided shortages came on rapidly, but we were among the less severely impacted by the storm in this section of NC. The devastation in towns around us and to the north of us is huge. The local churches responded immediately and have collaborated with one another and the local entities in a massive effort to provide water, food, housing and other needs to those impacted by the storm. In some communities the ensuing work to reestablish services and rebuild roads and buildings will last months and into the coming years. The trauma will last a long time, mainly on those who have lost family, friends and neighbors.

Lucinda and I are finishing up a few final tasks and packing for travels to Bolivia. We'll head out on Thursday by road for Penney Farms, FL, where we'll celebrate with Lucinda's extended family the 70th wedding anniversary of her parents combined with also celebrating their 94th and 95th birthdays. Early next week we'll finish the drive to Miami to drop off the rental car and take the overnight flight to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Early the next morning we'll take the domestic flight in Bolivia from Santa Cruz to Cochabamba.

We'll be carrying some electronic equipment for the Quechua radio station Mosoj Chaski – cooling fans for the Short Wave transmitter to replace the ones that fail periodically, some converters for video production of teaching videos, and a video projector for the mobile Quechua leadership training program. Please pray for the equipment to pass through customs in Santa Cruz well and without delay, so we make the connecting flight.

We'll be living in an apartment on a property of SIM mission, well-situated for travel in Cochabamba to the radio station and the children-at-risk ministry property. Once we get established we'll send another update, but for now we'll close off to get this update "in the mail" before we head out the door. Correspondence to us over the next couple of months will be limited to email and WhatsApp. We pray for God's hand to lead each of you day by day in this fall season.

Please pray for Laurita, the teenage girl of Emmanuel Foundation who continues to battle leukemia. A friend of hers in oncological treatment, two years older than Laurita, recently passed away from cancer. It has discouraged Laurita in her own physical battle.

In Christ's love,

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