

Bentleys' Update – March '25

Dear Friends,

We trust that you all are seeing some signs of spring these days. Your days to enjoying skiing, sledding, ice skating and the like are almost over for the year. It's sad, I know, but at least you can hang up the snow shovel for a few months.

Lucinda and I just returned from four sets of meetings in several locations in FL and GA. We held annual field debriefs with a look at aspects of ministry strategy with two of the Pioneers Area Leaders we work with – those of the US Diaspora East Area and the Mid Americas Area. One couple resides in Georgia and the other traveled to FL for a week of Member Development meetings, so we met with them in FL this year rather than AZ where they live.



We're in NC for just over a week before taking off for Indonesia for meetings with all of the Region Leaders of Pioneers from around the globe. We managed to get back to NC for the forest fires. 3 forest fires in town. And 4,500 acres on fire at the moment. Evacuation orders for some. Most days we are living in smoke. It's rained only once in almost two months, so everything is tinder dry. Coming on the heels of the hurricane 5 months ago that blew down a good percentage of the forest there's lots of fuel for fires. Pray for rain for our Polk County.

Before traveling I need to get an audio recording done and sent to the Quechua Radio station in Cochabamba for the upcoming anniversary – 26 years of broadcasting the Good News in Quechua. Anniversaries are huge in Bolivia, another opportunity to celebrate God's unfailing provision for this strategic outreach to the indigenous population of the country.

News from Goretty Jora, the Director of Emmanuel Foundation, is that the ministry programs with the children are going well and the construction on the new property is advancing. Her "resettling" into her home that was emptied by thieves when she had traveled from Bolivia with us is slow – mainly because her focus and time is dedicated to the children and outreach at Emmanuel Foundation. Continue to pray for her.

Pray for wisdom as we redefine the Americas Region in Pioneers we have led over the past years. Due to continued growth we need to expand leadership to embrace the growth that God has given. When we assumed the Regional Leader role in March of 2007, the Region was comprised of Russia, Europe and the Americas. There were 41 teams with 209 adults. By 2012 the Region had grown to 59 teams and 385 adults. Leaders had been appointed and mentored, and we divided the Region that year. The Americas became a separate Region. Other leaders assumed leadership in Russia and Europe. Lucinda and I stayed in Bolivia as the Regional Leader of the Americas.

In 2012 there were 23 teams in the Americas. There are now 66 teams/ministry locations. The need to again divide the Region is on hand. Leaders have been appointed and mentored over these years, and are ready to assume the additional aspects of leadership needed to divide the Region. A part of our leadership planning this year is determining the boundaries of the division and corresponding roles. Please pray for that.

After return from Indonesia, Lucinda and I will be into a season of significant travel over the rest of the year - FL, ME, Peru, CA, ME, Brazil, Australia, TX, Bolivia. We'll keep you up to date on each part, as the months progress.

In Christ's love,

Paul & Lucinda

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