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PANAMA

Sending Church: OPEN DOOR BAPTIST
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Dear Friends and Family,

I made the trip just fine to see my family and visit a few churches between April 1st and May 5th of this year. The Lord led and blessed all the way. I did miss seeing our son, David and our granddaughter and Great-granddaughter. Things just didn't work out right, but that is how I feel about it, knowing WHO was really in charge.

The stress of getting ready to leave was a bit complicated, but it all worked out. This trip was to be different on this end: I chose to close up the house instead of leaving someone living here, taking care of T.J. and Dallas, my two boxer dogs. On February 6th T.J. died as a result of tick disease. We were able to save Dallas, but he was very lonely, never having been separated from his brother. The solution came in the form of a missionary couple who had lived with me twice within one year for a couple of months each time. They graciously offered to keep Dallas with their dog, Holly. They were all so happy and adjusted when I returned that I gave him to them. Now everybody is happy, Praise the Lord. No, no more dogs for me! Got that? Thanks anyway for the thought.

My schedule is a matter of prayer in itself! Unsettled as yet, I cannot give you days and times, but will keep you informed as they develop. I had not planned at all what I have been doing since I returned home apart from getting the house ready for my visitors, which was a joy as I was realizing the completion of some of my long-range plans: to put down new 12" vinyl tile squares in all my house. I did the bathroom, the kitchen, the hallway and one bedroom. It was enough. My guests were very happy. The conference was great and many were blessed by it.

Last night I worked for about 3 hours after church and did bunches: a stabilizing row of floor tiles from the kitchen to the office for direction and spacing, and then half the office, enabling me to get my computer set up before ten a.m. so the techman could OK my work and repair the phone connection that broke as we were tearing out the desk area that was attached to the wall. The wood in the desk had been a banqueting hall for termites for a long time. Pest control was inadequate. I painted the area and this morning there were three mud trails coming up from the floor where it joins the wall on top of my fresh paint - termites last stand! I doused them with Pentadrin, and so expect no more problems from them. That will have to be watched. Today I also had a struggle to decide what to do with the new space in my office! It has taken almost all day, but I think I have a satisfactory arrangement now, something workable and attractive. Pleasant surroundings inspire!

I am teaching the ladies' class on Sunday mornings and have 5 guitar students who are still on vacation, until next week. Currently, I play guitar in all the services, but had to miss Sunday nights and Wednesday nights while I stayed with the grandkids at their house from May 23rd until June 3rd. My ladies conference guests left on May 21st; Bro. Jarrell, our home church pastor, died early May 22nd. Byron and Briceida went to help and be there for the funeral before going on to North Carolina to preach a family conference and then spend vacation time with the two younger kids, Rachel and Jonathan, whom I sent to them on June 3rd. Today, June 8th ends a week of catching up on errands, resting, paying bills, resting, cleaning the house, resting, visiting, etc. before I head into the week-end tomorrow. Oops, gotta go buy milk before dark. Right now there is an activity for the teens at the church (90 steps from my front porch), so I have people coming constantly for this and that.

Praise the Lord, all our national pastors and their families are doing well. There are 30 students in the Bible school in David that need your prayers. One is our grandson, Anthony. I will be teaching some practical courses there, beginning in July, Lord willing.

Love, Elaine