

PANAMA * ELAINE WILLIS

Sending Church:
Open Door Baptist Church
1212 South Beltline Rd.
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July- August- September
2010
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Dear Faithful Friends and Family,

I have to laugh when I consider that my legal classification in Panama is that of a “retired resident”. There is no hammock in the shade nor palm-leaf fan and lemonade around my house!

BIBLE INSTITUTE – Due to sicknesses and injuries, we have no classes tonight. Also, the rains, caused by the hurricanes in the Caribbean, are very restricting, making it difficult for teachers and students alike to get to evening classes. Our student body has diminished due to work and university schedules. We have the potential to graduate three more in December, so please pray for us in this endeavour. I have found it helpful to give daytime classes to three of the students. I need material to teach on the duties and joys of a pastor’s wife in order to build a new course for next year. Have any?

MY WORK – is the works of all our pastors as I provide breakfast for their weekly meetings, do some secretarial work for them, provide a communications hub for our fellowship, share regularly financial support with eleven national pastors, as well as other duties in the church and school. The work is moving forward in spite of attacks on all sides of all sorts, common to a busy, productive work for the Lord. More people are saved and baptized every week. Three of our national pastors are in the USA visiting churches for the purpose of deputation. That has given lay people a chance to “practice their skills” as they fill in where needed.

HEALTH – The flu bug has been rampant for the last six weeks. I caught it and then “T.J.”, one of my two boxer dogs came down with it and almost died when the flu went into pneumonia. He was sad on his day to suffer that ache-all-over-feeling. He must have thought he was dying and cried if I left his side! The pastors, at breakfast, laughed at him! Poor guy. But the vet came out three days straight and gave him the medicine he needed. Now he is round again, robust and playful with an appetite like a horse! I asked the vet if he had any medicine for me! The dog got well so fast. He smiled and recommended an over-the-counter cough syrup for me that did the trick. Guess who else is “round, robust and playful again”?

RECREATION – The first week of August is our annual National Fellowship, headed up by Missionaries Jim and Phyllis Childress of Panama City. It was a spiritually and emotionally refreshing four days for which we are all appreciative. On August 28th, I was the invited speaker at a ladies’ retreat in Panama City that was also a wonderfully edifying time. I have another invite for October.

SPECIAL TREATS – One of our Sunday School teachers had cataract surgery, so I have been in charge of her class of 13-14 year-old-girls. They are so special it will be hard to give them up when she returns!

I have a system on my computer now that I may send and receive calls to the USA free of charge, so we are enjoying frequent conversations with family and with our travelling companions.

A group arrived today from Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland, TX, who are long-time friends and supporters, which has brought an added dimension to our joy.

SYMPATHY – my heart goes out to the James Cook family in the loss to cancer of their eldest son, Policeman Jimmy Cook. Heaven gets sweeter with each passing friend.

THANK YOU – for prayer and financial support of \$_____ for July and for August.

In His Love, Elaine