

MILLER MESSENGER

MAY 2019

Dear praying friends,

“Bloom where you’re planted.” This is not a direct Scriptural quote, but the Bible is full of examples: the “little maid” who evangelized the powerful Naaman (2 Kings 5:2-3); Esther (4:14); the early Christians scattered by persecution (Acts 11:19-21). We just finished moving to a new apartment (**note our new mailing address at end of this letter**) and find some of our neighbors to be a real potential ministry, to bloom where we’re now planted. (Of course, this was true of our previous location, but the problems here are different.)

Edna met a boy shortly after we moved in who helped her with a task she was doing. He was a really nice person but had no father and told us that his mother had suffered a work accident which affected her brain and “She’s crazy.” He is being raised by his older brother. We invited him to breakfast on a Sunday morning and church afterwards, but he disappeared before church—probably too much for him. He’s probably trying to avoid us now since he “copped out” on us, but we’ll wait and see if the Lord brings him back into our lives.

Next door is a couple with an autistic little girl. The toddler can only make sounds and may never be able to talk, but likes to come into our house. So we encourage the parents every chance we get.

Down a few doors is a “blended family” with two sub-teen girls (the mother’s) and another from her present man’s previous marriage, which man she is trying to get away from. She is working and going to school and gets by on four hours of sleep a night, and the girls are sometimes unattended. Edna wanted to help but (I think wisely) did not make any commitments.

And that’s just the beginning. All appear to be nice people, no “druggies” or ex-cons, but all have problems and we may be called on to minister to them. After 36 years overseas, we sometimes wonder at the changes in this “foreign country” we call our native land; but looking back 50-60 years, I can see some developments that we were even then being warned about and the predictions are now being fulfilled. One was that truth is relative—there are no absolutes—secular humanism says that Right is whatever Man says it is—“Man is the measure of all things.” Another is the drug culture and a third is the breakup of marriage and the nuclear family. All of these have to do with rejecting Bible truth. Organizations like TWR and Bible-believing churches are trying to halt the slide—there are temporal as well as eternal blessings from preaching the Gospel!

Back to the apartments: there was ministry even in the transition. We had to downsize again, letting go of a lot of “stuff” which magically accumulates over the years and is too valuable to throw away but too space-consuming to keep. (Sometimes it’s a choice between “sediment or sentiment.”) A neighbor in our former place ministers to homeless women at a shelter and took a lot of the items. She said the women appreciated the clothing but appreciated “being remembered” even more. (The forgotten outcasts of society...)

To add to the adventure, Lois went to China for a week on assignment from Arizona State University and Ruth has also just changed apartments and we are helping her get settled even as we finish our own “settling-in.” Jagat has joined a robotics club and is involved with the control software. We attended a meet recently where her team’s robot performed well. Kierally (10) is experiencing a growth spurt—mentally as well as physically—and you’d think she was a teen already.

There’s more in the prayer requests on the next page. Thank you for your faithful prayer support!

Your Africa-Arizona missionaries,

Joe and Edna Miller

“You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.” 2 Cor. 1:11 (ESV)

> As we mentioned on the previous page, we would appreciate prayer for our new situation here and that the Lord would be glorified through it.

> Thank the Lord! The Venezuela studio has power back and Gabriel Fernandez no longer has to lug gasoline cans up nine flights of stairs to keep the emergency generator going. Pray that the people of Venezuela will come back to the Lord after all this political trauma.

> *From Venezuela to Africa: A listener in Tanzania writes: “Thank you for the WOMEN OF HOPE radio program...in my family we were fighting every day, a problem which involved me and my husband. Also, our children were so rude to us. Last month when we were sitting at home before we started our arguments as usual, the radio program started, and the topic of that day was about family matters and their relationships. Every one of us was listening and shocked because it was like the teachers were living with us. They talked about all the bad behaviour of our family. Later my husband said, ‘Let us start a new life; let us live with love and forgive each other.’ From that day, we did not have any arguments where we have failed to talk and correct each other in love. We send our greetings to all who enable this program. For sure this program brought friendship back into my family.”*

> *A listener from South Africa writes: “I have learnt so much through TWR. My relationship with The Lord has grown stronger and the light is getting brighter now! I listened to the programme WORD ALIVE last night and was blessed by a message from Mark 5 about the woman who touched Jesus’ robe. Many thanks to the Lord and you and your team.”*

> Carol Witthun, a former neighbor of ours on Bonaire who is now on Guam, reports that two typhoons came through in the latter part of 2018 and Guam was spared the worst of both. She attributes it to the prayers of God’s people. Keep praying for this major broadcast site to the Far East!

> A Japanese missionary to Mongolia realized that radio could reach that country for Christ but TWR’s “flagship” program, THRU THE BIBLE, was not on in Mongolian. She prayed about it and five days later the program was added! Thank the Lord! And please pray for its outreach!

> And please pray for TWR’s outreach to the “-stan” countries (also known as the Silk Road region). Believers there face persecution from family as well as government. TWR produces programs in several Central Asian languages to stabilize and disciple new believers. We don’t hear much from this region, but they need our prayers just as much as any others.

This isn’t a prayer request, but if you’re a coffee drinker, you may wish to check out this way of supporting TWR with your coffee: <https://www.coffeehelpingtwr.com/> and don’t forget Amazon Smile—which will donate a portion of your order to the charity of your choice!

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