

January 27, 2021

Dear Church Family,

We arrived back in the U.S the beginning of December and began the process of adjusting and resting. It is difficult to come back and forth on a normal furlough, but this time beats anything we have ever encountered. As most of you know, we have always made it a point to come and see each supporter that has been with us faithfully for the last 27 years, but I am afraid this time it is different for all of us. Not only have we faced the struggles of the virus, but also the fear and unrest of our politics. For us as a family, there is another variable that has made us change our plans entirely. I will explain.

After dad's passing, our plans went from a typical furlough to a very personal family farewell as it relates to my father. My parent's ministry spans over 50 years, and many of you have been with us for most of this time. The hundreds of relationships forged over the years have been awesome! As a family we want to ensure that we can share this difficult time with you and follow thru to the next chapter of all that God has planned for us. Normally traveling to churches and reporting is the standard when most foreign missionaries are stateside. As time passes and ministries grow, so does the number of supporters. Tina and I have our group of churches, the Seminary has its group of churches, and my parents (Danny and Maria) have theirs. This is over 100 supporters for the family ministry in Costa Rica! God is good! Basic math will tell you that it would take two years to visit everyone. This is obviously out of the question especially when you add the complications that the virus has added to everyone's schedules. I have dedicated these next weeks and months to contact and report to everyone on our individual list to update all the contact information and share our path forward in Costa Rica.

In my last letter I asked you to please continue supporting my mother Maria, as she will remain in Costa Rica indefinitely. Her ministry has always included teaching our music and training Sunday school teachers in the seminary. So far 99% of you that I have contacted have responded positively and I still have many more to go. Please bear with me as I restructure all the contact info and put together a more centralized process for all the mail. We personally have sent a physical letter to our entire ministry, and we now want to add everyone's email to this process. This list will now include the overall ministry that reports to supporters. As for Mom, we are getting her set up with her own email, and I am sure she will contact many of you when she is ready. For now, I will include her notes in these communications so you can read from her own hand.

On a separate note, we are happy to report that our daughter Julie received a letter from Liberty University offering her a full missionary kid scholarship. She has completed all the paperwork and is waiting on the approval. Please pray with us that God will open the door that He wants Julie to walk through. Julie has been an excellent student and faithful daughter, and we pray God will use her and bless her life abundantly. If she is approved, she will start school in the fall.

As for everything back in Costa Rica, I ask you pray for missionary Cristian Cardozo who is working from our church to start a new work about 30 minutes up the mountain from us in the town of Zarcero. His family came to Costa Rica from Uruguay and has been holding meetings with three of our families that live there. Our goal is to help them get started and constitute a new work by the end of the year. Pray for their family and their support. They still lack a good portion of income to be autonomous.

If I have not contacted you within the next two months, please call or email me so I can update your information. This has been a most unusual process for me, so please help me with this as I regroup. God Bless

Jonathan and Christina White (**contact info at bottom**)

Note from Mom, Maria White

Dear churches, friends, and family,

I have always had it in the back of my mind that Danny and I would go to heaven together in the rapture or be killed instantly in a wreck on the highway. But the Lord had other plans. Danny went very suddenly drinking his morning coffee, reading his bible, while sitting in his favorite chair.

The hole he left is huge and difficult to explain. He was always bigger than life and would do anything the Lord called him to do whether he had the means to do it or not. Many times, it seemed he worked on only sheer will power given to him by the Lord. One soul at a time... one nail at a time... one young man at a time for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord willing, I hope to continue here. I have taught in the Seminary, trained Sunday school teachers, youth workers and musicians for years. We are so frustrated with Covid restrictions and pray they soon are lifted. Our services are restricted to an hour, no handshakes, hugs, or singing.

Something Danny and I have done for years is support missionaries. I pray you will take this into account. We support 4 of our own graduates. Two are working with the Guaymi people of Panama. Two more of our graduates started churches in the northern province of Costa Rica. These young men worked alone under much opposition, but both have been blessed. They worked in two different towns, which now have good churches. We also support another family in France and another in Mexico.

Please pray for us. With me the tears never stop, and we are all broken hearted. We are just praying we can do what the Lord wants us to do here.

You cannot imagine the lives touched by my amazing husband. There were buses of people coming to the funeral who did not make it because of covid restrictions. They were all hurt because they could not pay their respects in person. Even so, the parking lot and property here was full of all our church members who stayed outside to give room to those who traveled. The building was full.

The two police who came to handle traffic and distancing came to the door to tell us not to worry, that no one would bother us. One was the sister of one of our graduates, the other the Chief of Police Danny won to the Lord years ago. He was crying as he told me of his love and appreciation for the man who told him about Jesus.

I appreciate each one of you and with all my heart thank those who have promised to stay with me.

Maria White

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