



JOY MINISTRIES

Dr Jonathan S White
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May 2021

Dear Church family,

Many years ago my parents Danny and Maria White dubbed their overall ministry in Costa Rica as “Joy Ministries.” This name was used mostly for our Camp work that started back in the early eighties and continues still today. Since Dad passed away, the responsibilities of communicating with you have fallen mostly on me. I have wanted to bring the ministry under one umbrella name again in order to report more broadly and hopefully streamline the information. As of this letter, I formally reclaim the name “Joy Ministries” for the Costa Rica ministry. This will mostly cover the churches and seminary and the occasional camp report. Also I will include notes and letters from my mother when she writes.

In our last letter we told you about our daughter Julie getting an offer for a full Missionary Kid scholarship to Liberty University. After filling out the paperwork and multiple interviews, she was accepted and approved and will be starting school in August. We praise God for giving her this opportunity. This confirms the change for our return plans to Costa Rica since we want to get her sent off to school in the fall. Also we are monitoring how shutdowns continue to evolve there.

In Costa Rica things are a bit grim. It seems the virus cases have exploded again, causing the health ministry to call for a return to total shutdown. The supposed vaccine has been very slow getting out to the population. We had been able to partially open our churches to 50% capacity back in August 2020 and have had no issues as of yet. This is not to say that we haven’t had folks getting sick, but the church meeting and protocols were well kept and have worked for now. We pray that they will not order a total closure again. Restart has been a real challenge, and we would not want to repeat it.

These past few weeks we started our annual V.B.S program, and had a wonderful time. We had nine young children give their lives to the Lord and very good challenges to the whole church. We ended up cutting it short one week due to the recent outbreaks, but the teachers were able to finish most of the activities.

I wrote in our last letter about Missionary Cristian Cardozo out of our church who was starting a new work about thirty minutes up the mountain from us in a town called Zarcero. They were able to find a suitable house to rent and have begun Bible studies. This is exciting, especially during these complicated times. We are allowed to meet ten people in study groups per home. This has become our new way of gathering in our four new missions that lost their building due to all the protocols and regulations.

Although this has been a complicated issue, in a way we feel honored to return to the primitive church way of meeting in houses. Maybe we can all reset and learn from this simple and early way of doing things. One of the advantages is that people get to know each other better, and the church can go back to being a personal place for Christians to share, disciple and worship rather than just a weekly gathering in a large facility. Obviously larger churches have become who they are because of hard work and dedication to God’s kingdom. But for those smaller churches that can adapt to these times of change more quickly, there is a very good biblical example of how to continue and be effective. Please pray for us concerning this issue. Our preachers are doing the best they can under the circumstances. We are in the process of investigating with the different cities and health departments the possibility of setting up outdoor tents and possibly moving the congregations to them for the time being.

Please write to me at jwhite@motorsformissions.org or call/text at 470-494-7705 if you need any further information on our plans and ministry. This includes my mother Maria White. I am continually working to get everyone’s email in order to streamline all our communications. Please send me a note with your email if you wish to receive an electronic copy. If I don’t hear from you, I will continue to send our letter in the format you currently receive it.

A letter from Mom

Dear churches,

I thank each of you with all my heart for your sweet prayers and condolences you have sent to us. We have needed your love and prayers during the saddest time of our lives and you have come through for us faithfully just as you have ever since we arrived on the mission field in 1973. We pray the good Lord will bless you double for being such a blessing to us.

Our oldest grandson summed up the life of his Popaw better than anyone. When he heard the sad news he simply said... Oh mom... He was the best.... And he truly was in everything he did. We stand together as a family in our different ministries. Satan has tried many times and used many people and circumstances to try to destroy us. He has tried to divide us and take down the soul winning ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in which we are all involved.

But glory to God and to Him alone we are all still standing and are more determined than ever to continue the ministries that Danny started.

- I was 13 and Danny Lew White was 16 when we fell in love. When I turned 14 my dad finally let him come to the house to see me... once a month. The rest of the time I saw him at church and high school football games.

- He had been saved in the spring revival that year. Then God called him to serve on the mission field.

- He never shrank, doubted or wavered from that call of God on his life. He never turned back.

I was 19 and he was 22 when we married. He had graduated from Tennessee Temple Bible School but I still had two years to finish. During the next two years we had our oldest daughter, I finished college and graduated all while traveling on weekends to present our desire to serve in Central America to you, our faithful churches who have stood with us through thick and thin all these years.

I remember many times traveling all night from back to back meetings. I would get to class straight from the all-night trip. Danny would take the baby home and they both slept till I came from classes. Then Danny went to work. We were young, fit and some said... crazy but I would not change it for the world.

This same strength and zeal he took with us to the mission field where he worked very hard and won many souls because he was... "not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ". Rom 1:16 was his life verse and is engraved on his tombstone along with Prov. 20:6b-7.

His sons have both realized that he left really big shoes to fill and that only by God's grace.

- 50 years 4 months and 24 days I was privileged to be married and serve with Danny. The hole in my heart and life is so big only by the grace of God am I still standing.

- Lord willing I will continue teaching in the Seminary and help wherever I am needed. We are praying about a plan to help graduates when they start churches, with a team to go in and help train their music and Sunday school teachers so they can concentrate on the preaching and visitation

- We need your prayers. Many folks here are still mourning with us--pastors from all over Central America whom he taught or encouraged to keep up the fight.

Thank you for loving us and praying for us so faithfully.even so come Lord Jesus.

Mrs. Danny Lew White

Phil 4:13

In Christ,

The White Family

Jonathan, Christina, Rachel, Rose, Julie and Natalie