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Update from Gail Ereddia in sunny Arizona!



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Dear Friends,

A phone call came today from one of my supporting churches...wondering if I was still on the job, as they haven't heard from me in a few months! Needless to say, the work here is always busy, and there is much to tell you. I've been thinking for some time now that I needed to get a letter out, or I was going to have to write one that was at least three pages long in order to tell you everything that's been happening!

The most demanding part of my responsibilities here in the home office has been dealing with the finances for the Mission, the Evangelical Church, Mission Christian School, and Westpointe Baptist Church. In July, Westpointe accepted the responsibility for Mission Christian School. It's been a blessing to see the Lord bring in more than necessary number of students in order for the school to have enough funds to operate this year. For me personally, it has meant closing and opening bank accounts, setting up new payroll, etc., etc.



Thankfully, in June, Joe Montgomery (a CPA from my home church—Faith Baptist, Greenville, SC) was able to come to Phoenix again (he was here last November to help us), this time with Sam Griffith. What a blessing these two men were to the ministry! Joe helped me get some things adjusted from when he was here last year, and he helped me to get the new files set up for the new payroll. We put Sam to work doing many things, including working on some website files for The Evangelical Church.



We gave these men a break and took them to Sedona for the day on Saturday. (They *thought* it was going to be cooler there! As you can see from the picture...it wasn't!)



My co-worker, Norma, is pictured above with her new husband, Luis Torres (both are graduates of our Bible institute in Mexico). They were married here in Phoenix on May 15. Unfortunately, I didn't actually get to go to the wedding because I was in charge of the food for the reception. It was a busy time, but it turned out very nicely, and we're thrilled that the Lord has brought them together to serve the Lord. Norma became a U.S. citizen last week, and they are working on residency papers for Luis so that he will be able to work for as long as the Lord has them here in the States. He has been faithfully helping the Evangelical Church in whatever way he can, and I'm told that he is an excellent Bible teacher. Please pray for them that the Lord would continue to use them for His glory.



This has been an exciting summer for Westpointe Baptist Church, the new church plant I'm helping with on the west side of Phoenix (Litchfield Park). At the moment we are renting a public school to hold our services, but we have been praying about purchasing land. A piece of land was located in Buckeye, about 12 miles farther west than we are right now. It is five and a half acres, and we were able to purchase the land at a very reasonable price for Phoenix properties. The Sunday before we had to have the down payment for the land, Pastor Dick told us that we needed an additional \$20,000 that day. I looked around at our small congregation, thinking about the fact that many were Christian workers and not one could be considered financially wealthy, and I thought, *It will obviously be a miracle from Lord and will show us that this piece of land at this time is definitely His will, if we have an offering of \$20,000!* **The Lord gave us an offering of over \$27,000 that day!** That was a tremendous encouragement to us, especially as the Lord has seen fit to move several faithful families out-of-state because of their jobs in the last year, so our numbers are even smaller than they were (under 100 now).

God delights in doing miracles, doesn't He? Another miracle came in the form of some significant funds to upgrade our computers here in the office from one of Dr. Shumate's supporting churches. My computer was s...o.... very s....l....o...w! (It was taking 10 minutes for my Quickbooks to come up!) Our computer tech (goes to Westpointe) who built my new computer called it an "uber computer!" (For you "geeks," it has 4 processors, 3.25 GZ memory—my old one had 512 MB!—2.40 GH, etc.) It's amazing how much we need our equipment to get our work done, so, needless to say, I'm exceedingly thankful to the Lord for His gracious provision.

Prayer Requests:

1. For much wisdom, especially in regard to my financial responsibilities for the Mission (I had a half a year of typing in high school; I don't think that qualifies me to be an "accountant"!)
2. For continued spiritual growth and faithfulness to the Lord
3. For physical health and strength (various ongoing needs)
4. For upcoming vacation time in September to visit family, get some rest, and visit my home church in Greenville, SC
5. For our upcoming staff conference in November

Many, many thanks to those of you who pray for me and support me financially. *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you!* May the Lord richly bless you and use you for His glory.

In Christ,

Gail

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