

Serving with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions

Stanley and Marjorie Cline

"Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them..." Ruth 2:9

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Dear Friends and Co-Laborers,

Solomon wrote, "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land..." We are getting close. Winter may not be completely past (36° here in the Valley and 21° night before last), but it is changing. Flowers may be appearing, but the ones I'm seeing are wearing earmuffs. And yes, I did see the first two robins this morning. More about turtledoves later.

Seriously though, life goes on. As days pass we see new opportunities present themselves to serve the Lord and new developments in opportunities we have had before. Just a few days ago, we returned from a missions conference in New Jersey. It was well planned, the people exhibited a good interest in missions, and there were good families present to challenge the people with the needs of a world without Christ. One of the missionaries, who speaks Italian, was able to witness to a lady who lives near the church but who knew very little English. At the conclusion of the service one night, she invited the pastor and the missionary to visit her the next day. The host family of another missionary family hires Spanish-speaking people in their business and they invited Brother Rovirosa (a missionary with W.W.N.T.B.M.) to speak to the employees the next day. People in the church asked "Why can't we make the conference longer next year? A good conference!

The week before that conference, we had a good meeting with the president of a Christian college concerning the possibilities of presenting our board and its ministries to the college and its students in their "Missions Emphasis Week" later this year. We expect to pursue that, as well as continue our contacts with other schools with which we have already had opportunities to minister.

Now about our newest direction. In our last letter, we wrote about our burden for the Spanish-speaking people in our county and also our decision to begin studying Spanish after 55 years away from it. I have been surprised at the response from some who have read our prayer letters. Maybe they are thinking, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." You can, but he just has to gnaw on the bone a little longer. One of the first comments we've gotten is, "How is the Spanish work going?"

The answer is that it is slowly developing. Lining up meetings is difficult because of odd work schedules and getting people together. However, a few weeks ago, we actually began Spanish Bible studies and have them regularly scheduled. We are not fluent yet, but the people are patient and gracious, and sometimes we end up laughing as each of us tries to find the right word. But we can get by and hopefully are getting experience. Last night we met with a family in Harrisonburg. We had met with the wife before, but last night her husband and their children were there. The children all flocked around and wanted to read and ask questions too. One little girl stopped us and asked, "Why did Jesus have to come to the world?" What a question! "Out of the mouth of babes..." Pray for these and for us that we might gain a Spanish tongue and a Spanish ear.

One more blessing of this infant ministry is that one pastor recently told me he felt if we could do it, he should be able to do it also in his county. There are so many of those folks in his area too.

Thanks once again for standing with us! If we may be of assistance to your church, it would be an honor and a privilege!

In the service of the King,

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