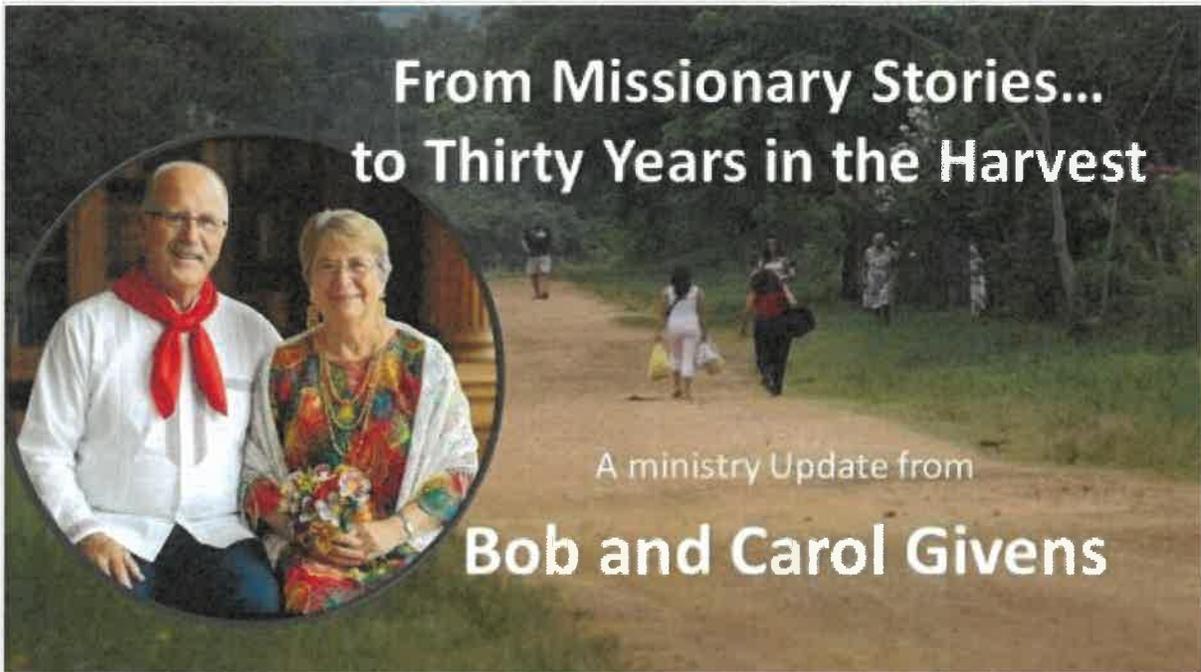


From: Bob and Carol Givens <bob.givens@sim.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 5:13 PM
To: info@niemonds.org
Subject: Passing it forward! The Missionary Challenge!

March is Missions Emphasis Month!

Pass It Forward!



Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

March, 2026



March is often "Missions Emphasis Month," a time to remember that God's heart has always been for the nations. This past month, we had the joy of sharing our journey at church, bringing along traditional clothing and cultural items from our years in **Bolivia and Paraguay.**

While modern technology is fascinating—I even experimented with AI to "dress" us in traditional attire for the banner of this update—nothing replaces the reality of living among people, learning their language, and experiencing their culture firsthand. Preparing for this presentation caused us to reflect on how this

lifelong call began.

A Legacy of Stories

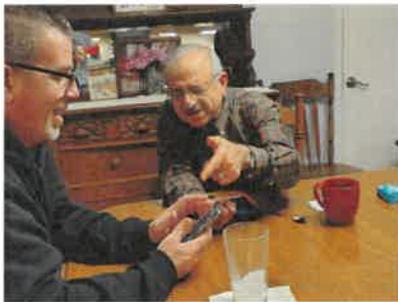
The seeds of missions were planted in my heart long ago by missionaries who visited my childhood church. In fact, I was named after a missionary, Bob Atwood. Listening to stories around the dinner table and later hosting international students while



hosting international students while pastoring a small country church were the "training grounds" God used to prepare Carol and me for the field.

Eventually, the Lord opened the door for us to serve overseas for nearly **thirty years**. What a privilege it has been to walk alongside our Bolivian and Paraguayan friends as they discovered the joy of following Jesus Christ.

The Power of Transformation



We were also honored to host **Daniel Shayesteh** this month. Once involved in the 1979 Iranian Revolution, his miraculous conversion to Christ is a powerful

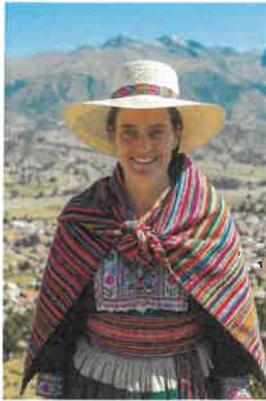


reminder that the Gospel transforms lives in every nation and every culture. Here is a link to Dr. Shayesteh's

Testimony - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnN_yTCUESs&t=2665s

As Jesus said: *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* — **Matthew 9:37–38**

Looking Forward



It is amazing to see the circle complete: once we were the ones inspired by missionary stories; then we spent three decades in the harvest; and now we are the ones sharing those stories with a new generation. We invite you to ask the Lord: **"What part do You want me to play in reaching the nations?"** Whether calling us to go, to send, or to pray, God uses each of us to fulfill His global mission. (The picture on the left is of a former Exchange student who has a heart for missions.)

Thank you for standing with us in making Him known.

With gratitude, **Bob (and Carol)**

Prayer Requests

- **The Harvest:** Pray that God will continue to raise up new workers for His global harvest.
- **South America:** Pray for the believers and church leaders in Bolivia and Paraguay as they continue the work of the Gospel.
- **The Next Generation:** Pray that missionary testimonies will stir the hearts of young people to follow His call.

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