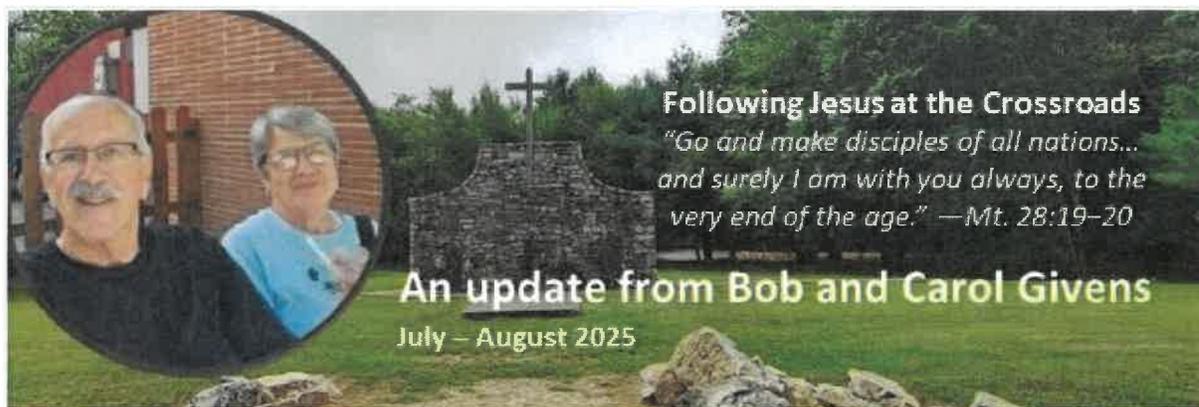


From: Bob and Carol Givens <bob.givens@sim.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 7:43 PM
To: info@niemonds.org
Subject: Bob and Carol - Following Jesus at the Crossroads

Following Jesus at the Crossroads

Obedience to Jesus defies logic at times



Dear Friends,

"If you seek to follow Jesus, you will come to crossroads—times when obedience may seem unreasonable, even to those you love."

That was our experience years ago. Carol and I, along with our children—Stacy (13), Christopher (10), and Charles (5)—left behind a fruitful ministry, a loving church, and a stable home. We packed our lives into suitcases and followed God's call to Costa Rica, then Bolivia, and later Paraguay.

We learned a new language, adapted to unfamiliar cultures, and started over more than once. The hardest part wasn't what we left behind—it was hearing people say, *"This doesn't make sense."* And honestly, at times, it didn't make sense to us either. But in the process, we discovered this truth:

Obedience to Jesus often defies logic.

He never promised it would be easy—only that He would be with us. And He was. He is. He always will be.

Summer Highlights: God's Faithfulness on Display

This summer has reminded us once again of His faithfulness:

- We hosted the *Arranibar family* from Bolivia—dear friends from our very first Bible study.
- We reconnected with former teammates *Jeff and Vivian Kroll*.
- During our town's Dutch Days celebration, we spent time with *Paul and Becky Dreiling*, co-workers from our years in Paraguay.



Each encounter affirmed that the seeds planted years ago are still bearing fruit—living proof that God is at work through obedience.

Are You Standing at a Crossroads?

If so, take heart:

- You answer to an audience of One.
- His grace is enough.
- His presence goes with you.

Please Join Us in Prayer For:

- **Young families** sensing a call to missions
- **Wisdom** as we mentor others at life's crossroads
- **Fruitful ministry** in this season of hospitality and discipleship

We'd Love to Hear From You

- Have you ever made a decision to follow Jesus that others questioned?
- How did you walk through it?
- Your story could encourage someone else—and we'd love to hear it.

With love, gratitude, and a big hug,

Bob and Carol

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