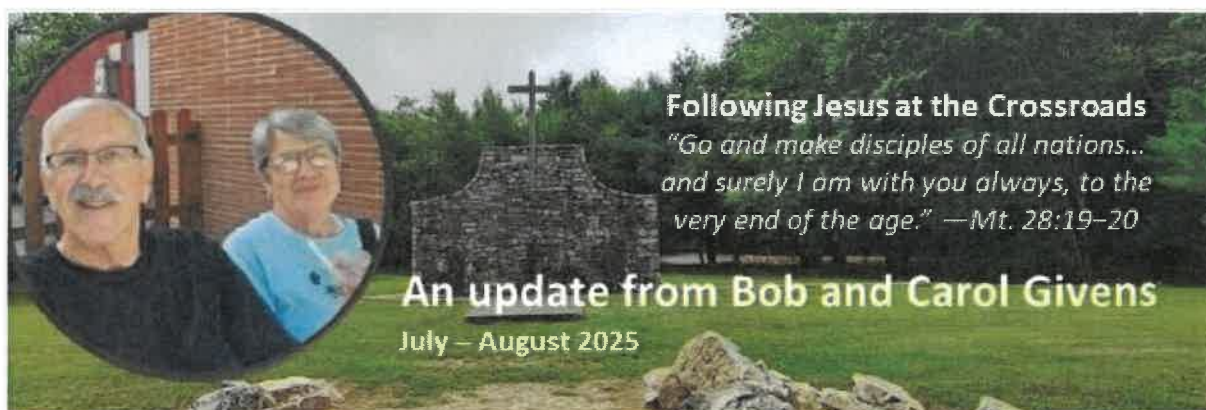


**From:** Bob and Carol Givens <bob.givens@sim.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 7:43 PM  
**To:** info@niemons.org  
**Subject:** Bob and Carol - Following Jesus at the Crossroads

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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