

The Castagna Connection

Accelerating the Spread of the Gospel Through the Power of Media

July 24, 2020

A Topsy Turvy World

(Adapted from Steve Richardson's, Pioneers USA director, email update to us missionaries)

Leslie and I were living in Belize in January of 1986 when the space shuttle, Challenger, exploded 46,000 feet over Cape Canaveral. All the nation was gripped with sorrow. "We will never forget them," President Reagan said in his speech to the nation a few hours later, "nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

Technicians immediately went to work in search of the "root cause." They discovered that a faulty O-ring on one of the solid fuel rocket boosters had weakened in the frigid temperatures. Hot gas started pouring through the vulnerable spot, eventually resulting in a huge fireball as the main fuel tank tore apart.



Enjoying a day up in the Rocky Mountains

I sometimes find myself asking, How are the O-rings in my life? Are they brittle? Are there small leaks that may lead to serious consequences?

One important O-ring, I'm convinced, is a spirit of gratitude. Paul described the first step in the downward spiral of human society this way: "... they neither glorified God nor gave thanks to Him..." (Romans 1:21) No doubt, this can apply on an individual level as well. A lack of gratitude can lead to a ripple effect of negative consequences. Conversely, counting our blessings and spending time with people who are really grateful can be refreshing to the soul.

Like you, we here in Colorado are waiting on God, spending time in prayer and discerning what God may be saying and doing. How can our thoughts, motives, and behaviors more accurately reflect the glory of the risen Christ? What new things may God be doing in the world and in our ministry? Please pray with us!

Mexico & Flagstaff Trips

The Pioneers spiritual retreat I attended in Mexico was wonderful! One of the requirements was that we disconnect from all electronics to better hear what God was saying. Four days later when I reconnected, the world had changed; Covid-19 had struck!

Three days before heading to Indian Bible College in Flagstaff to teach, the school closed down because of the pandemic. I am scheduled to go back next year and teach. However, I did end up at IBC in June with a missions team from my church. Our team built interior walls and framework for hanging sheet rock in the new school library. I cooked for the team; two of the nights we invited Indian Bible College students to join us — lots of food to prepare!

There are a couple of video projects in the works; we're just waiting for the pandemic to clear up. One project is in Mexico and the other will include travel to the Apache reservation. Pray for pieces of the project to come together.



I've been volunteering at *Hope In Our City*, a ministry that works with refugees who are mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia. We repainted their offices and installed new flooring. Next up, building a 16' long storage shed & a fence



Before leaving IBC, we prayed for the facility and wrote verses on parts of the wall which will be covered with sheet rock.

Our Golden Girls

The Margosians

David graduated from Liberty University with a degree in Bible. He had one job interview before Covid struck. Pray for a great ministry position to open up.

Amber worked from home for weeks but is now back in the office. She is a good organizer and a great mom!

Timothy starts 1st grade at a local public school in a few weeks; a new experience for him. Pray for good adjustment.

Joshua will miss big brother and will need to learn to be content to play by himself. He will be doing preschool activities at home as well as possibly attending a preschool.

The Lammotts

Kyle had major oral surgery, which according to the doctor, was textbook! He is into week 4 of a 5-8 week recovery. As you can imagine, being able to speak clearly is a major plus for a pastor! Pray for complete healing.

Mandee is getting ready for a new year of home schooling as well as nursing Kyle back to health, which includes preparing all liquid meals for Kyle.



Karis has gotten into producing videos. Hummm, I wonder where that interest came from? She is now learning to use video editing software.

Owen has been bitten by the entrepreneurial bug. He's trying to get into the lawn mowing business as well as making and selling pickles.

Piper is all about Barbie dolls and the colors purple and pink! Need I say more?

The Larsons

Nate worked from home for a few weeks but is now back in the office. Drag racing season is in full swing, so weekends find him at the track or in the garage fixing a broken part.

Lori is now permanently working from home, which as you can imagine, she loves! She has lot's of Zoom calls with her boss and sales team.

Leslie's Life

I (Leslie) have been working from home and at the church when the doors are open. Having to cancel 13 of the 14



Nonna (grandma in Italian) does all the different character voices when reading stories to our grandchildren - thus making the tale all the more en grossing!

short-term mission trips for 2020 was not an easy decision, but it had to be done due to the pandemic. Presently, I'm in the process of rescheduling all the trips for 2021.

I'm gearing up to teach a new women's Bible study for the fall, and may also be teaching through the Book of Revelation as many women have expressed a desire to dig deeper into God's Word concerning end times.



PRAYER ALERT

"Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan." -John Bunyan

† Pray the plans for upcoming video projects in Mexico and Arizona come together.

- † Pray for a job in full-time ministry that fits David's bent.
- † Pray for a good school for Timothy and Joshua to attend.
- † Pray for financial partners to join our team.
- † Pray for spiritual impact in the lives of the Somali and Ethiopian young men that Matt is working with at Hope In Our City.
- † Pray for Kyle as he recovers from a serious oral surgery.
- † Pray for parental wisdom for both the Lammott and Margosian families.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

- † Praise God, none of our family has lost their jobs during the pandemic!
- † God has so faithfully and wonderfully blessed us through you ... during our 44 years of ministry!
- † Thank you for praying for our ministry and family!

Serving with you, *Matt & Leslie*

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