

April 28, 2016

Dear Friends at First Christian Church of Beloit,

I used to think that when our kids were grown and on their own, that life would be less hectic. But our challenges do not go away as our kids get older, challenges just change. Recently we had lunch with a dear couple we used to work with in Mexico, who left a good work in Mexico and moved to Uruguay to minister to a very secular, atheistic culture. They were traveling east from Denver, as they are on home assignment at this time. Our friend, who has turned 66, said he has **no** intention of retiring until age 80. He says that people in their 60's and then again in their 70's have their greatest influence as mentors. I wonder if this is recognized in many of our American churches? We do see that people in their later years have a lot of accumulated wisdom, and if they have led Godly lives, God can use what they have learned in the midst of spiritual battles to help others. We are thankful to be busy and be used by Him in service.

Sara has not been able to participate in the jail ministry lately, as she has been caring for our granddaughter. She has been greatly enjoying this time with her.

The past week I was able to get a number of Spanish music videos ready for the website and uploaded to the "Cloud" so that another lady can put them on the website of Obrerofiel. The task we have been working on for over two years is coming close to the end.

The Good News Club has been a little discouraging as many of the children have been involved in school plays, sports and other activities, so attendance has dropped off. Sara has found that if she texts the parents on Sunday night, more kids come. This week one of the children asked if we couldn't please have another Good News Club when this one ends in May.

I have continued to help Grand Island Christian Schools with getting their feet back under them. God has truly been faithful in showing His goodness in this. I have been surprised that only about half of the kids come from Christian homes, and so this has been a mission field in itself.

We would ask for your prayers as we talk with our mission about our future with them. I turned 65 last year and Sara will hit that mark this year, so we are discussing with them what our role will be. They would like us to stay on at least part time helping with Obrerofiel. There are three options for people of our age, so we need to decide which one fits us, and then we will be writing regarding support for the future. We can assure you that if we move to the part time option, you will be able to cut our support in half or cut it entirely. We will keep you posted as we proceed ahead. We still desire to stay in ministry of some type. We still see the value of missions in this rapidly changing world. Technology will never replace one on one evangelism, discipleship, or mentoring. Our visit with our friends from Uruguay really drove that point home. Most people in that country have been committed atheists, and if they had never met and observed someone who believed in God, their attitudes would never have changed. No amount of technology would break through to their hardened hearts.

Yes, change is inevitable, but the question is, are we flexible enough to accept it and continue on? As long as God gives us the health, our desire is to serve Him. We have no plans to sit back and do nothing in such a needy world as we live in. So thank you for standing with us so faithfully over the last 20 years since we left for Mexico. Your faithfulness has been a real encouragement.

Your servants for His kingdom, Rich & Sara Musgrave