



February - March 2022

Dear Praying Brethren,

We hope this letter finds you and yours doing well in the Lord. Given the current state of the world, it is such a blessing and comfort to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to be able to lean and trust on Him for our confidence and safety. The Lord has allowed much to happen these past two months, so as a result, this letter will be longer than usual.

In mid-February, we participated in a mission's conference in Tennessee. The brethren there were truly a blessing, and we enjoyed good fellowship with both the church members and the other missionaries. We also appreciated the thought provoking and edifying preaching.

After returning to Pensacola, our home church had our biannual meeting called the Bad Attitude Baptist Blowout. The preaching was a true blessing, and we believe the Lord answered our request to meet with and speak to us. Due to the generosity and liberality of the brethren at this meeting and from some of our other supporters, we were able to pay for some unexpected expenses connected with our visa paperwork.

In getting our paperwork together, we found out that my birth certificate needed an additional certification to meet the requirements for the visa application. When we finally got ahold of someone at the right office, we found out that the lead time to process this through the mail was 12-14 weeks! Since I was born in New York, the document had to be processed in Manhattan. We also found out that the same certification process could be done in person and be ready on the same day. With the 3-month lead time putting the document way past the period where it would be useful, we opted for traveling up there and getting it done in person. We were able to get it processed, and the next step was to send it to a different agency for a different, international certification. They were not accepting in-person appointments for this service, so we mailed it to the appropriate office right then and there. We received it fully processed and ready for the visa application within two weeks. Praise the Lord!

Since my wife had family in New Jersey, we flew in and stayed there. On one of the flights, there were some technical difficulties in reserving our seats. As a result, my wife and I could not sit next to each other. Once we boarded, I was instead seated next to an older lady named **Barb**. As we talked, the conversation quickly turned to spiritual things. She was a professing Catholic and, very early in the conversation, said something to the effect of knowing that some people say that salvation is only by faith but that she believed you still had to do something. I was able to pull out a Bible and show her about sin and God's view of it and how He offered His righteousness by faith alone in Jesus Christ, not by works. We talked off and on for the entire 3-hour flight, and as we were making our final approach, I asked her if she wanted to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior right now. She said that she was ready, bowed her head, **and asked Christ to save her from Hell and cleanse her of her sins!** It was an immense blessing to witness to someone who was genuinely honest about their spiritual condition and willing to accept God's word on how to get it fixed. My wife was sitting a row over and ahead of me and said that the two young men in front of me heard the entire witness and seemed affected by it. As the flight ended, we offered them some tracts, and although one of them refused, the other accepted it and seemed grateful. The Lord knew what He was doing with the whole seating arrangement, and I am humbled and grateful that He directed our paths to cross with Barb and see her receive Him.

While in NJ, we visited with a great-great-aunt of Anna's whom she had never met before. Her name is **Marge**, and by the time you read this letter, she will have, Lord willing, celebrated her 101st birthday. When we visited her, she

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was in a rehabilitation facility recovering from some health issues. When we walked into the room, the TV was running with a Catholic program of a children’s choir singing. Before we had a chance to introduce ourselves, she turned it off and said, “I don’t believe like that. They teach these kids all that stuff, but they’re wrong.” My wife then asked, “What do you believe?” She answered, “I believe Jesus died for my sins and that I am going to heaven because I’ve trusted Him!”

Seeing her peace and joy was truly a blessing, and she seemed very encouraged by our visit. If the truth is told, I believe she was more of a blessing and encouragement to us than we were to her. In a world of uncertainty and chaos, seeing an elderly saint nearing the end of her time here with such a spirit of steadfastness and confidence in Christ genuinely blessed us.

After returning from our trip to NJ, we drove down to Miami to visit the church where Anna grew up. They have an annual Bible conference timed to coincide with a worldly festival in Miami called Calle Ocho (8th Street). On the last day of the conference, we got to go out with backpacks full of tracts and spend several hours passing them out and preaching on the streets. While I am unaware of anyone getting saved right there and then, many tracts were passed out, and the gospel was preached. Also, since the church is bilingual and the area is predominantly Spanish speaking, we had a concentrated dose of Spanish over that weekend. Thankfully, the people of the church were willing to be patient with us as we fumbled conversing in Spanish, and we feel the time spent was a great help in our language learning. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship, and the preaching was a real blessing to hear.

In early March, our son, Justus, turned two years old. It is amazing how quickly he has grown and how quickly time has passed since he was born. I have heard many older saints say that time moves faster the older you get. The more years that pass by, the more I see the truth of this statement.

In closing, many of you, no doubt, are interested in the status of our visas. For the past several months, our sponsors have been trying to submit our documents to the appropriate office in Spain. They were finally able to get ahold of the lady handling the case and found out that, due to the backlog from COVID, the Spanish office was not accepting any applications during January and February. Then, in March, she got sick with COVID and could not try and submit the papers again. Thankfully, she has fully recovered, and on March 21st, we received a confirmation email saying that our paperwork had been received. This is not the final step in the process, but it is a big step in the right direction. Please continue to pray for us in the situation, as the continual delays and hindrances have been a real struggle to handle correctly. The Lord has been more than gracious through it all, and you, our supporters and helpers, have been so patient and caring that we feel that saying, “Thank you!” is truly inadequate to express our gratitude. With that being said, and despite not having better words, Thank you for all your care, prayers, and patience with us during this time of uncertainty! We will not know until Heaven how much of a difference your prayers and support have and will make in our lives and the lives of many others.

Sincerely in His Service,

Justin, Anna, Catalina, & Justus Pizzo

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