

July 12, 2008

Dear Pastor Yoni & family, and all of the brothers and sisters at La Junta,

It is with much sadness I write to tell you that our visit to you is delayed. Pastor Dawn's passport has not yet arrived and we have been unable to determine what has happened to cause this. The remaining travelers could not wait any longer to submit their visa applications for the October trip. I believe that God must have a reason why we should wait and travel to see you, God willing, in the spring. Still, it makes me sad knowing that all of you were looking forward to this visit every bit as much as Dawn and I.

I hope that you will be able to send some letters back with the group that is coming. Our congregation always wants to know any news that I have of you and our letters back and forth have been so few due to all of the obstacles to our communications.

Dawn is learning Spanish, and I suppose this delay will allow her to become more fluent prior to our trip. I have been prompted by the Spirit to learn the Lords Prayer in Aramaic, as Jesus would have spoken it, though I have no idea why He has laid this on my heart. It seems a curious thing to do, but who am I to question the leading of the Lord? Someday, I am certain, the "why" will be revealed to me.

Our church has been very busy with our preparations for vacation bible school. We continue to reach out into our community, and though I do not know the exact numbers, I know that I am seeing more and more new faces among our church family, especially among the youth and children. Last month we acted on our faith and hired a children's ministry leader. Her name is Missy and I ask you to pray that she and her family will be blessed in their service to Forest Hills.

Last month, two of our long standing members went to be with the Lord. I ask that you pray for the Brooks family and the Petit family, especially my dear friend Thelma, to find comfort in God's grace and love. Thelma lost her husband, Alva. She had many times told me the stories of their youth. They were childhood sweethearts who grew up together, were married, and remained together well into their eighties, until Alva's recent death. I am concerned for Thelma because she has never been without Alva and it may prove to be a difficult transition for her.

Please also pray that God will bless us with clear vision of His will for us, and the strength and determination to stand firm on His word as we move forward in the direction of His leading. Pray that our vacation bible school will be a blessing to many, that our Shepherds Way food pantry ministry will continue to be able to provide for those in our community who count on us to help feed their families. We continue to pray for those things you have asked, and for blessings far beyond what you would dare to ask or imagine. We pray that your leaders will turn away from all that is profane and that which does not honor God, the Creator. We pray that the differences between our governments will be healed by His mighty hand, that we may someday be able to pass freely from one country to the other to enjoy more frequent fellowship.

All praise, all honor, and all glory to He who reigns and lights our paths. We look forward to the day when we will meet, in His perfect time. Please pray the prayer the follows with the brothers and sisters.

Lynn Rios

Father, in the name of Jesus, we offer ourselves as the body of Christ. Through You, we are made able to overcome evil with good. Satan has no power over us for the Greater One dwells within us. Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.

No evil will befall us; neither shall any plague come nigh our dwellings, for He has given His angels charge over us. They keep us in all our ways and in our pathways of life.

We thank you, Father, that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, but whatever we do in Your name will prosper. We are like trees planted by the rivers, Our God supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We have all sufficiency in all things. We abound to all good works for our God has made all grace abound toward us.  
Amen