



News Notes for May 1, 2023

Did you ever eat a mango directly from the tree? THAT is an experience that is delightful. The same goes for peaches, pears, etc. In 1983, I ate one, of the round variety that is small compared to some, only about 2 ½ inches in diameter. I decided to plant the seed on the church property. It grew to about 45 ft. tall and has produced probably thousands of mangos over the years. I just ate another one, today, and decided to plant the seed on the church property. That is almost exactly what we see in the work of the Lord. Of the group that formed the first congregation, their grandchildren now play instruments for the hymn singing: guitars, violin and use a keyboard for specials. I look at these young people and see their parents and grandparents with different bodies and personalities. Amazing. I came across an article recently about “Staying By The Stuff”. It was impressive, but I am more impressed by having lived it.

When we came to the field, all the Baptist Christian universities used a book to teach missions that was written by a Presbyterian missionary to China. In the preface (I am told) it says that he spent his first four years there, then went back home and wrote the book stating that a missionary should stay on his field for four years, return home to report, go back but to a different place to begin another work. That missionary, at that time, had not yet lived it!

Jim Willis really tried, but God did not want to use him that way. In 1971, Jim and Pastor Bud Hunter made a survey trip to Panama. Prayer was being made for the Lord “to warm Jim’s heart when he entered the place where he was to work. When they reached Panama City, Bro. Bud asked, “OK, Jim, where is it?” Without hesitation, the reply was, “Las Lomas”. So, Las Lomas has been our base for the last 49 years, with churches being established and men trained for missionary and pastoral service. The women are being taught in our Bible institute their future role in life as wives and mothers. It pays, to stay by the stuff no matter how unglorious and frustrating it gets. Many of you have been supporting this work for 50 years and I am gratefully asking the Lord to allow me to stay in the traces, with my boots on, (I am a Texas girl).

Thank you. Blessings, Elaine