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Dear Family and Friends,

Thanksgiving time. The most celebrated family day in the USA. There are lots of memories to accompany me as I pass the day here with no family kin around me due to the political unrest our country of Panama is enduring. But I am not alone. Our people watch over me and keep me company. The Lord, truly, is an ever present help in time of need. Our people are enduring the hardships of supply shortages, willingly to help save our country from the devastations of mining all over the country.

There was a contract signed to literally sell the country to a foreign company for mining purposes which will destroy the environment, drain the Panama Canal, release toxic substances into the drinking water as well as scar the land. Besides there is a problem with the contract that is: to mine copper and another mineral, or metal, which must be recorded officially, but other valuable ores, as side-benefits, reportedly, are trucked out with no records. That includes gold. No wonder the people have risen up to protest by closing the only highway that crosses the country, at many different points, stopping all commerce. As a result, after a month of closings, propane gas to cook their food, scarce in the stores, and gasoline and diesel to get to and from their work ran out. Some trucks have been allowed to pass, but not freely.

From the suburb where I live, the bridge over the river is closed and those who must go back and forth are obliged to walk about a half-mile from one taxi to another. Then return later. Prices on necessary items have skyrocketed. They do open the bridge to cars for minutes at a time, allowing for some relief.

The Supreme Court of Panama is deciding what the next step will be. Please pray for Panama.

Thank you for prayers and support. I have been able to do very little, but something for some of our people, financially. Love, Elaine