

It reminded me of a pile of worn out, well used shoes! You know, that comfortable pair that you keep going back to?! There were ladies loafers, with the sides worn down. A pair of sandals --- flattened out and spreading. Some of the work boots were still a bit muddy and others scratched and rubbed thin in places. The sneakers had holes in them and the habarcas (Bolivian sandals) were stained with years of sweat and perfectly formed to the foot.

We'd been invited to a "**veterans celebration**" --- and there we sat, listening to the heart warming, challenging stories of other "missionary veterans". We were able to relate to the joys and the hardships of serving in the "army" --- we were not "military" soldiers --- no, this eclectic group of veterans had served in the "other army" in many different foreign "combat zones" and we all felt privileged and blessed to be there! By God's strength and grace we had survived the battle! Yeah --- the "spring in our step" isn't there anymore and we're moving slower and struggle with remembering words! 😊 But we all agreed that God's faithfulness has been the common thread running through each of our stories! I wished I'd counted up the total years the eleven couples represented! Many with 30, 40 and even 50+ years of service. We met at a church in Springfield, MO and were blessed beyond words by the pastor and different ones from his church that made this special occasion possible!

SO --- It is official!!! We are retired as of June 1st. We have been invited to continue on at the MTC as "volunteers" and Paul will continue to teach the module on Ethnos360 (NTM) history. He will also continue assisting the leadership team. After almost 54 years, those old shoes represent us well as we are a little scuffed and "worn down" around the edges :-} But SO thankful to be in this place with the opportunities to continue serving! Going to this retreat was a great way to start this next chapter in our lives and we look forward to how God will continue to lead us, as we commit each day and its activities to Him! We have never done "retired" before -- or for that matter "old age" --- but we are catching on and we lean on God to direct each day! We both turn another year older this month --- our son and his wife just celebrated 32 years of marriage and our daughter her 50th birthday.

Here is some really exciting news of which you have been a vital part! There are **TWO Bibles in the final stages of being ready for printing!** One is the revised version of most of the **Ayore Bible**. You've been a huge part of this incredibly challenging project as you've supported and prayed for us down through the years! We remember the very beginning days, when Maxine Morarie spent hours and hours with her Ayore translation helper. Ecarai has been home with the Lord for many years and Maxine is in her 80's now and continues to be a part of Ayore translation. She even has an Ayore website where they can go to read stories of their history and messages given by their spiritual leaders who are now with the Lord. This website also includes a dictionary and reflects years and years of translation. They can read it in Ayore AND Spanish! How cool is THAT!!!

The other is the **Tepehuan Bible** from Mexico. We were a part of the Mexico field for 12 years and had a part in beginning this outreach --- and now --- all these years later the New Testament and portions of the old are ready for printing. The very special part that ties us even closer to it is that Starr, our daughter and her husband Matt (Arnold) have invested almost 25 years in that work, teaching and loving them. You prayed for Starr as a little girl --- you invested in her --- and now we can all rejoice as we see the fruit of years and years of study and sacrifice invested in this translation. Kevin Case and his wife Wendy are the primary translators and we remember going with them the very first time they went out to the Tepehuan tribe. That was about 40 years ago! So --- celebrate and praise God with us as we get a wee glimpse into the mighty things God is doing around the world!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers! We will continue to be supported in the same way as before retirement. Nothing has changed. We know that our God is our "Jehovah Jireh"! He is the same God that performed miracles on our behalf in the past and He will continue to do so as we launch into this next and final stage of our lives! May God continue to bless and encourage your lives!

Joyfully in His Service,

Paul and Faith Wyma

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