

Dear Friends Far and Near,

Yesterday was Easter...Resurrection Sunday. I love Easter. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Paul wrote to those in Corinth, "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised, then our preaching is vain, our faith is in vain." Some were wondering about the resurrection but we don't wonder! We know because of what He has written in His Word and what He has done in our lives. One of these days He will come to take us unto Himself. We have hope in Christ...He is coming again.

About three weeks ago I was at the dentist and my hygienist finished her work and asked me, "Does God speak to you?" I was taken aback...she had never talked of spiritual things and I seem to always be in a hurry to get out. I recognized an opportunity and explained to her that He speaks to us through His Word...not in an audible voice or dream.

In retrospect, I thought of James's admonition that we should ask God to give us wisdom and He will give it to us liberally. Another verse that is a real help to me is in 2 Peter 1:3. "He has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness." His Word contains all God wants us to know but we must know it and then obey it.

These thoughts led me to the Wisdom books in the O.T. and they are filled with answers to any questions we might have. In the fly of my Bible I have a definition of wisdom that I copied many years ago..."Wisdom comes privately from God as a by product of right decisions, godly reactions, and the application of scriptural principles to daily circumstances."

The book of Proverbs often compares foolishness to wisdom. Foolishness is a liar and never produces what it promises, while wisdom delivers more than we could hope for. She says from the beginning her way is hard. She demands our respect and requires discipline on our part. She blesses those who heed her call. She even tells us how to find her. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Since I last wrote, my sister-in-law died and her husband, my brother, died...both had Alzheimers and he was very bad. It's a long story and I have no reason to believe either was saved, although the daughter believed her dad was. She kept asking him if he was ready to go and he always insisted that he was.. It was very sad. I'm so thankful I saw him three years ago.

Our son and his wife and two of their children were here for several days. He is a pastor in Indiana and we had a wonderful time. During their stay, our other son and his wife from Michigan came to be with us for a day. We missed our daughter in TN but she teaches and could not make it.

I keep in touch with many friends of years gone by...Not too many are left. I seem to have out-lived most of them. I thank the Lord for health and good vision. I read, as you know, and without good books I would be very lonely. My balance is bad so I only leave the house when my daughter comes for me. I use a walker when I go out. We do have lunch together every day along with her daughter, my grand daughter. What a blessing she is to me. Besides my children, I have my younger sister and and a sister-in-law, and quite a few nieces and nephews--I talk with one of my nieces often on

the phone and I love that. I also have my nine grandchildren, ten great-grands, and one great-great grand. Most of them are out-of-town.

I left you in my last letter when we had been asked to begin a work in North East Bolivia in a border town called Guayaramerin... We stopped in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and I stayed with other missionaries as Bob went on to Guaya to get a place to live before I got there.

I already told you we were given a place to stay by the American rubber company which was preparing to end its work there since the reason for them being in Bolivia had ended. Apparently the rubber was used for tires on vehicles used in the war.

We were able to rent a house built by an American who had a lumber mill down the river . He had intended the house to be a store. It had one big room and two storerooms and a bedroom. There was electricity from darkness through the night. I went to bed early and locked myself in. There was one light bulb hanging from the ceiling in the middle of the room. There were three windows...screens, but no shutters or shades. The house was rather isolated so I was not afraid of anyone seeing in. We had shipped our bed from our home in the south and Bob had met a man who let him use his woodshop where he made a crib for our baby, Steven. The four legs of the bed were in cans filled with kerosene to keep the fire ants out of the crib.

The town drunk slept on my front porch which was not really a porch but an area with dirt on the ground and a roof over the top. I had a pressure cooker and one-burner kerosene stove in case I decided to cook. I had a barrel that caught rain which I used for bathing and flushing the toilet. I can't remember what I did for drinking water. One day I made some peanut brittle and put it in a dish on a table in that big room. A little more than an hour later I went in to get a piece and already it was covered with maggots. All that was needed was one fly.

During this time another couple came but they had been assigned to the other side of the river which was Brazil. The Brazilian side had lots of things that we did not have in Bolivia. I crossed the river riding in a canoe for a small fee. I took my baby and a woven bag to carry my purchases. I met some believers there that were so kind to me and took me in their homes. Bob and the other man were busy planning a trip down the river where they hoped to contact some indians that had not heard the gospel or seen a white man.

In my next letter I will tell you about that trip and why we left the area.

If you have written me, thank you. If you have prayed for me, please continue blessing me that way. If you have ever sent me a gift, I am ever so grateful.

"Show me your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation: On you I wait all the day." Psalm 25:4-5

In His care,
Julie Collins