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Baptist Mid-Missions  
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*"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling." Psalm 46:1-3*

Our last letter was sent as we were preparing to travel to Virginia for a couple weeks rest and visits to family and churches. It was a delightful time in the mountains, just the two of us, for rest, reading, and relaxation. The time culminated with a fantastic family gathering of our three children and families over the Labor Day weekend.

On our journey back to Florida, Paul developed a severe cough losing his voice for a few days. When we left Virginia, we were receiving warnings of a Category 5 hurricane threatening Florida. Thursday he was able to see the Doctor and receive medications which helped, though the coughing has persisted. On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the hurricane struck extremely hard in Sebring doing considerable damage in the area. We are grateful for Maranatha Village where we live which has its own water and sewage plants with auxiliary power. The duplex residences are constructed to withstand hurricanes and were not damaged. Many trees were uprooted, and carports destroyed, but no physical harm to anyone in the village. The village was without lights from Sunday through Thursday. EBI finally received power Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our ministry has been limited also due to the hurricane, though ministry opportunities have presented themselves to help our neighbors. The prison where Paul ministers has been on "lockdown" the last two Sundays, as well as his inability to accept a preaching engagement in a Hispanic church in St. Petersburg. The EBI office has been closed for the duration, and is now back in operation as of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. Lord willing, all of our ministries, prison, jail, and otherwise will be picking up again.

Our hearts have been blessed by recent news from our past ministries in Ecuador and North Carolina. The pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church in Ecuador sent a good report of growth in the works in Cuenca and Sta. Isabel, having recently baptized seven people. This is the work we went to assist last year for three months, and were finally able to find a pastor. Also, the Hispanic church in Winston-Salem which has been without a pastor since June now has an interim pastor, a missionary to Brazil on furlough, who is well known to the congregation, as he was helpful in the beginning of the church while a college student. He is very fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English. The church is doing well. We continue to assist both of these works through our monthly support.

We thank you for your prayer and support of us and our ministry. We would ask you to pray for our health. Elaine has dental issues and suffers extreme pain in this weather with her rheumatoid arthritis, and Paul continues with bronchitis. All this comes with age, and our wonderful Lord knows and cares for us. May God richly bless you.

In His service,  
Paul and Elaine