

# The Castagna Connection

Accelerating the Spread of the Gospel Through the Power of Media

October 21, 2024

## Hypertension?



By now most of you know that Leslie gave us quite a scare; she ended up spending four days in our local hospital! Amber had come

to our house to pick her up and take her to the airport for her flight to Thailand. Leslie had a wild sporadic heartbeat and a small lump in the carotid artery. They decided to make a quick detour to a local urgent care, which was closed, so they went to our local ER. After they made sure it wasn't a heart attack, her sporadic heart beat and high blood pressure caused the doctors to immediately admit her. You can see one of her BP readings above.

I (Matt) was in Florida to help care for my 97 year-old father so my brother could get away to visit one of his sons. I woke up the next morning to a text from Amber which read, From Amber: 8:28 PM Colorado time: *Are you awake?* (I wasn't. I was sleeping off the residual effects of going through Hurricane Milton the day/night before with my brother and his wife in Sandford, FL. I turn my phone off at night, and because of the 2-hour time difference, Amber wasn't able to reach me.) *I'm with mom at the ER. She has chest pains and an irregular heartbeat. The Dr. checked and it's not a heart attack. (PTL) But they are doing more testing, they are keeping her overnight.*

*Her blood pressure was 225/136. They want to keep her for observation because they can't figure out why. I'm going to stay with her (overnight).*

Leslie writes, Dear loved ones,

First of all, I want to thank everyone for all of your prayers. They were powerful and kept me calm for the four days that I was in the hospital. I had over 10 different tests on my heart to determine the issue behind my high blood

pressure and it's sporadic beating. The doctors and nurses at Skyridge Hospital were wonderful; I am so grateful for their attentive care. I have Supraventricular Tachycardia, meaning a very fast abnormal heartbeat. But Praise God my arteries are clear and I didn't need a stent.

Lori and Amber tag-teamed to take care of me while I was in the hospital, and Matt flew home from Florida on Tuesday evening. It is good to be home and sleep in my own bed without being awoken every few hours for vitals, blood draws, and other things that they wake you up for in the hospital

One cool thing was, I had some good Jesus conversations with the nurses, one of the doctors, and some of the technicians.

Although I missed my much-anticipated trip to Thailand, I can see God's hand in all of this. Even though some of it was scary, I could really feel your prayers. Thank you all so very much for your love.

## Tarahumara Video-Shoot

The Tarahumara are a group of Indigenous people of the Americas living in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. They are renowned for their form of prayer that involves running for extended periods of time.



I (Matt)

will be heading to Mexico the middle of November to help a Pioneers team who works with the Tarahumara, with some needed videos. For example, one video will be a tool to promote and explain the literacy program there in the mountains with the intent to interest Tarahumara communities (Tarahumara would be the audience) to participate in the program and also to promote the program among missionaries, church and community leaders. Bible translation does no good if the people can't read. A healthy, growing Tarahumara church necessitates both.

Pray for journey mercies; I'll be flying into several locations via a small 4-6 seat airplane. Drug cartels are also operational in this area.

# Our Golden Girls



Reunion Church, (leadership team pictured above) a church plant that Amber and David have been a part of launching, recently celebrated it's third anniversary! God is moving; people are coming to faith as well as maturing. They meet in a local school and have garnered a really good reputation with the local community.

David has been struggling for years with ill health. Several weeks ago he had an amalgam tooth filling removed. The very next day he sensed a huge change in his health! He's not quite out-of-the-wood as of yet, but he is improving. He's currently looking into the multitude of vaccinations he received while in the Marines to see if any of them might be an underlying cause.



An unofficial rite of passage for our grandchildren happens when they are 10 years old-ish. Popeye (Matt) introduces them to the most enjoyable tool in his shop, the wood lathe. Timothy is crafting a dry flower vase.



We celebrated Amber's 40th birthday in April. Leslie and I are both saying, "How can we have a

40 year old daughter...we're too young for that!"

## Global Serve Team



Leslie moderating a Q&A session

I (Leslie) coordinate a group of volunteers in our church called the Global Serve Team. They advocate—and are a contact point—for our 65 missionaries. Once a quarter we gather for training, encouragement and to share ideas. In a recent meeting we had both a missionary and a missionary advocate share their experiences, from both sides of the isle, so to speak. I truly enjoy taking care of our missionaries.

**"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." – D.L. Moody**



## PRAYER ALERT

**"Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan." -John Bunyan**

- † Pray for Leslie's full recovery and for the docs to get her medications regulated.
- † Pray for journey mercies during Matt's upcoming trip to Mexico.
- † Pray for David's health.
- † Pray for the Reunion Church to grow and mature.
- † Pray for parental wisdom for our kids and their families.
- † Pray for stamina as we age.
- † Pray for clear direction, opportunities abound!

## BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

- † Praise for the health of most of our extended family!
- † God has so faithfully and wonderfully blessed us through you, during our 48 years of ministry!
- † We've enjoyed many miles of safe travels, and by visiting so many of you this past summer, we've been "refreshed by visiting the saints." Phil. 1:7
- † Praise God, Saint Boniface, the Classical Christian school that Mandee and Kyle's church launched in September, is off and running well.

Serving with you, *Matt & Leslie*

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