

November 27, 2018

Treasured Friends:

We have news! One again the Lord has brought some big changes into our lives! We have a renewed gratitude, a new house, and a new mission!

A renewed gratitude

14 years ago, the Lord led us to move to Tucson, Arizona, to be closer to family as we continued to minister with InterVarsity and the Latin America Mission. Through the immense thoughtfulness and generosity of our son, **Jon**, and his wife, **Pamela**, we were blessed to live in a lovely home, with a huge backyard and a swimming pool, right next to our son **Alan** and his family! This year we knew it was time to downsize our budget, workload, and belongings and look for a smaller place. As we prepared our lovely home for sale, a deep gratitude has welled up within us. How very blessed we have been to live all these years in such a lovely place!

So we asked ourselves: where should we go? Our son, **Alan**, very kindly offered us the option to share his home, for he lives right next door! As we prayed about that gracious offer, both of us felt we should still live on our own, but we had an idea: we asked **Alan** if he would give us one room in his home that we would furnish so that we could stay with him one night a week, to share our lives over supper and breakfast and perhaps even initiate a homegroup for our local church right in his living room! Still the question remained: where should we live next?



A new home!

To our surprise and amazement, our daughter, **Lisa**, and her husband **Juan Gabriel**, decided to invest in a townhouse and asked us if we would like to live in it, should they decide to buy it. It would be smaller in size, far more reasonable in upkeep and monthly expenses, and in an attractive community about 20 minutes from the house we have lived in all these years. What would you have said?!

We gave a resounding “YES!” and at the

far left you can see our **new home**. It even has a covered garage and a little patio in the back yard with an orange tree full of delicious fruit!

We also have a new address: **6777 East Camino del Dorado, Tucson, AZ - 85715** (Our cell phone numbers remain the same. Jack’s: 520-301-4230 and Mary Anne’s: 520-203-2140)

Friends, we are **overwhelmed** by the kindness and generosity of our three children and of the Lord Himself who has blessed us in so many ways as a couple and family. We are also thankful for each of you---your friendship, your prayers for us, and your own lives and ministries.

So let us tell you about the third “new thing!”

We have a new mission

Our church is placing it's greatest focus on reaching those around us. In our former location, we lived on a busy street with endless traffic. Our neighbors pretty much kept to themselves, even though we tried to reach out in a variety of ways.

In our new neighborhood, we are surrounded by 80 homes lining two gently curving streets. Most of the people who live here are older adults like ourselves or retirees.

A few days ago we decided to write a letter to 24 couples or individuals who live in the houses nearest our own.

We invited them to an open house to be held this coming Sunday (Dec 2nd) from 4 to 6 PM. (If you would like to read our letter, we have attached a copy.) We put our letter in green envelopes with bright red ribbons and attached them to each door.



As we walk our little dog, Pippen, two or three times a day, we have met some 15 individuals and now know them by name. We appreciate their openness to friendship, and two of them have come over for tea. This week we are prayer walking our two streets, asking God for His blessing on our neighbors and neighborhood and asking Him to pour His great love in our hearts as we reach out to them.

Please join us in praying for the **Open House** – asking God to bring the folks He wants us to get to know, and that He would prepare both us and them for on-going relationships.

Unfinished business

Meanwhile, although our former home has been visited by significant numbers of interested people, as yet no one has put in an offer on the house. We ask for prayer for **Wayne Anderson**, the realtor, and for just the right individuals to love our former house, purchase it, and be good neighbors to our son, **Alan**.

A promise to claim

This morning we read in 2 Peter 1 that God's "divine power has **given us everything we need** for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness." We would like to appropriate this promise as we begin a new life in a new community and be good neighbors, serving those around us and sharing the love of Jesus.

Thank you again for your loving friendship and your prayers as we enter a new house and new mission

Your friends,

Jack and Mary Anne

Jack and Mary Anne Voelkel

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