

(Please don't post online. Thoughtful forwarding is fine. Thanks.)

FBC Watsonville, Greetings and wishes for a wonderful Christmas!



Pastor Joël and Mrs. Jeaneatte during a couples' interactive exercise over the last two days—7 hours of instruction for about 25 couples of our church

We are taking a breather the day before Christmas—ready to decorate the tree, light the candles, bake some pumpkin pie. “Isn’t that kind of late?” you might ask. Yes, no argument. The Christmas season is filled with day after day of multiple-hour gatherings. We are skipping the four hours of prayer vigil this evening in order to have energy for the six hours of church service and feast Christmas morning.



Larry's media team gets front-row seats for the 35 baptisms last Sunday

Back at mission HQ, our educational consultant met Barb online a few weeks ago. She was quite concerned, because five grades and five English language learners [ELLs] among the eight TCKs add up to an unsustainable work load. Our colleague Beca bent over backwards to offload the one math class that Barb was teaching. Parents are taking on a bit more of the

curriculum. One struggling ELL slid down a grade to join another ELL in 2nd grade. It's still a lot, but we have been praying that Barb would not hit Christmas break and spend the whole time sick (her pattern almost every school break for a long time). And... Answer to prayer! We are thankful that Barb has sailed into the Christmas break with energy and good health. Meanwhile, please keep praying for people in the pipeline to come soon and reinforce our educational efforts at Beachhead Academy.

As another example of extras on our plate, a sister church nine hours away asked for our help jump-starting their media ministry. Talk about timely requests! Not...

Two weeks before Christmas Day, they sent out the SOS, because they have 15 couples getting married on Christmas Day! And they want to be able to project live moments from all the couples to about 1500 attendees using multiple screens in several locations around their campus! I spent three days with them last week to help them prepare their initial strategy and harness people's smartphones and borrowed laptops. The only equipment they had was an ancient VGA projector (1024x768).



Pastor Joël really enjoys teaching, and he's good at it too



Congolese friends in ministry



One of the church leader couples attending the two-day training

When I wrapped up on Saturday and headed home, we sent Pierre and Jean, two other members of our media team, to walk them through additional preparation and a dry run on Sunday. They will also soon start their Facebook page to nurture their church community and share the joy. Please pray for this new media team in Kindia—operating on a shoestring with hardly any experience. I'd love to hear that they knocked it out of the park.

Pray for us too, with our expected 1500 gathering both inside and outside at our campus. These moments always stretch us to the max and inevitably reveal where we are resorting to the proverbial bubble gum (not really) and duct tape (yes, really!) to patch things together. Besides the several hours of the meeting, filled with a lot of energy and joy, today they are slaughtering the steer in the church courtyard, and dozens of the women will be preparing a festive meal for everybody to follow the service.

A couple of people have asked about our previous request: “What about that ocean-going container and the new piano, microphones, and PA system?” The container hasn't landed yet. It has come close to port four times since mid-October, only to be sent on its way with no room on the docks to unload. Please keep praying for unloading, quick and inexpensive customs duties, and finally connecting with the equipment. [Lack of space at the port has been affecting everybody across the country, with food expiring and spoiling in containers, store shelves emptying—everybody is feeling it.]

While we're at it, the remote control for the ceiling projector never showed up, but we got a replacement through Amazon. Ladder-climbing days now over, yippee!



'Our container heads to port, pray for safe arrival & no duty!

Presidential elections

Please pray for peace in the land as our country goes to the polls to elect the new president—this Sunday. That's also why our church will gather on Saturday, since public meetings are forbidden on the day of election. Pray for wisdom as we transition back to an elected civilian government. The new president will select a third of the new senate and start a seven-year term under the new constitution, so wise choices will help the country prosper. School teachers have been on strike; there are shortages of non-staple foods; gas stations have had long lines, with black market prices for fuel rising. So the new government will start with plenty needing immediate intervention. Pray for a peaceful election and start of the new government.



**loving the creativity
in these young learners**

Thanks to the Well for the four iPads for the school. The older students have now learned touch typing through the whole alphabet and most of the punctuation. One of the 7th-graders has been chomping at the bit to start typing all the stories she has up her sleeve. Everybody has been learning graphics skills. The kids love the hands-on with their shared devices!

I am back to preaching in the daughter churches twice a month, including communion Sunday each month. Love it, love it...

Next time I hope to share about adventures with AI. We are working on bi-lingual speech-to-text transcription... fascinating stuff for a vintage wannabe nerd, with Kingdom implications.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Blessings from Larry and Barb

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry & Barb".

In case you didn't see it, here's a link to [a one-minute video \(click to view\)](#) to highlight the importance of recruiting for the future of the Beachhead Academy Co-op School.

Our mailing address is: Larry & Barb Stucky 24013 J PL OCEAN PARK, WA 98640 USA