

ON THE SPOT

FEBRUARY 2018

Dear friends,

Time is a very precious commodity, but my... it is fleeting! As Christians we better make the most of it while we can. **On The Spot**, this time, comes to you in simplified format, because of the pressures of time. Hope you don't mind. If you get "**Living Links**" by email, that will make up for it, as it links you to a great store of reading, meditating and study material, with no less than seven English menus to choose from!

First of all, let me share some "Myriam-news". To refresh your memory, Myriam is originally from Costa Rica, but has long held a Spanish passport. She was back in her own country for 2 years, while her German husband - not a believer - was in Uganda, Africa. But then he died suddenly in August 2016!

Myriam then came back to Spain - her only son lives here - and all of us were really happy to have her among us again in meetings and activities.

Then, somehow, something started to 'click' unmistakably in her heart and mine. Both of us understood the Lord was about to do a new thing...

This meant that in October, 2016, we were officially 'engaged' among the believers - a bit of a bombshell, but everyone was enthusiastic.

Our idea was to 'tie the knot' at the beginning of 2017, but papers needed from Holland and Costa Rica weren't forthcoming. So Myriam went back to Costa Rica to try and get the ball rolling, and see about a wedding there. On February 27 she flew out. On January 26, 2018, she was back - mission **not** accomplished.

The Civil Registry of Costa Rica rebuffed countless attempts to obtain

from them a registry extract that showed her to be a widow, needed of course to get legally remarried.

She could write a book about all her adventures. What took especially long was the wait for a bit of cooperation from the Berlin Registry. Since the Ugandan death certificate was not deemed trustworthy (could have been a forgery), we appealed for another one, from Berlin this time. It took the Berlin officials exactly half a year to produce that bit of paper. However, to the Costarrican Registry it was just as worthless as the Ugandan one. The Berlin bureaucrats hadn't deemed it necessary, in spite of our pleadings, to get it properly authenticated...

Before going on with the story line, at this point, let me stress how God enabled us throughout to keep on simply trusting HIM and press on with what He has given us to do, whether there or here or anywhere. If men and their 'officials' and 'official documents' cannot be trusted, God can...!

Myriam's elderly mother, on the Panamanian border, was greatly blessed by her help and presence all this time, i.e., whenever Myriam wasn't in San José, the capital up north. Her Mom is missing her now - not an easy thing, but one or two other daughters are not too far away. Altogether there are twelve surviving siblings, and I'm really sorry to have missed the others and their families, but, DV, the opportunity to go to Costa Rica together may yet arise.

An elderly Dutch brother, whom I knew when I was 12, lives in Costa Rica and, though 10 years older than me, is still active in the Lord's work. He put Myriam in touch with a congregation of indigenous 'Misquitos' near the capital. They are the enduring fruit of the sacrificial labors (of centuries ago), by the original Moravian missionaries in what is now Nicaragua. Had we gotten married in Costa Rica, we would have done so among these dear members of God's great 'Family of the Redeemed'.

As soon as the news reached me about the doors in Costa Rica being definitely closed, I thought of a dear friend in western England, on the border of Wales. I had met David Burton in Uruguay, when he was on a visit to

old friends, having been brought up there as an 'mk' (missionary kid).

I consulted him about Registry requirements in England, and he immediately showed great interest. The upshot is that, with the English not being as fussy as the authorities of other countries, it is relatively easy for us to get married in England, as long as we have valid passports and proper death certificates, which are acceptable without a stamp of authentication.

Jim van Heiningen

Apartado 31, 29700 Vélez-Málaga, Spain

Phone: +34 - 952 501 867

E-mail: presson@telefonica.net

Website: http://ntmu.net/?page_id=1082

News - in the context of:

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What is required is a minimum residential period of nine days, after which there's a wait of at least 4 weeks (during which we can leave the country), and then the wedding. David and his wife, Angela, offer us hospitality for the initial period + other help needed. With them we'll have to see about the exact date. After the official wedding with the Registrar, we'll have a special meeting with their congregation.

These days Myriam is enjoying her very first grandson, who came into the world on January 1. Her son won't be able to be at the wedding, but Lydia and David (who are back in England) and Andrew with Alison, perhaps with the kids, hope to be present. They appreciate Myriam very much.

If you should dearly want to come as well, do drop me a note and I can let you have the date and venue, as soon as I know them.

Another bit of news is that PRESSING ON! has stopped pressing on ☺. It became clear that only a tiny minority wanted the 'bullezine' to continue. But through the website, the NEWS will still go out! **Remember:** http://ntmu.net/?page_id=1082

Do keep on pressing on with HIM, HE is worthy!

Jim & Myriam