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An Excerpt from Doc Elma's Letter—
see the full letter on www.umcrc.us

“As for hospital work, the load remains heavy. But God sends lots of help: Friends visiting, medical professionals planning to come, and supplies that are refilled in God's time. There are 2 MDs from Congo whom the hospital will employ. Pray that their arrangements will be quick and their transition smooth. The Ivory Coast crisis continues despite former President Gbagbo's capture. We continue to get refugee patients.

Please pray for the Ivorians, their situation is dire. With so many nations needing help, Ivory Coast seems to be at the bottom of the list. I need an instrument for amputation, the one I bought last October broke- too many limbs severed. Please pray for a reliable channel to get it to here. There are four ward nurses with Malaria; snakes and scorpions are coming out- please pray for protection.

Praise God for Dr Ron and his very productive life. Please pray for his trip home on May 1. I pray that we all have a meaningful Lent and that We will truly experience and live out Christ's Easter victory.”

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“Throughout the world today, in various settings, denominations and belief-structures, Christians exchange the Paschal greeting. Instead of greeting one another with "hello" or “Good Morning” one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!", and the response is "Truly, He is Risen". I learned in my American Church that when one says “Christ is Risen!” to you, you should respond “He is risen indeed!” What did you learn in your cultures? Is there an equivalent?

In some cultures, such as in Russia and Serbia, it is also customary to exchange a triple kiss on the alternating cheeks after the greeting. But this Easter custom, practiced by such disparate groups as the Eastern Orthodox church, the Eastern Catholic Christians, the Roman Catholic and various Protestant Christians churches, is a way of proclaiming the resurrection and emulating the practice of the earliest Christian cultures.

The Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington DC describes why they practice the Paschal greeting: “In so doing, we emulate the earliest of the Lord's disciples and students, who after His Resurrection discussed the Resurrection among themselves, and said: the Lord is Risen indeed (Luke 24: 14-35). Moreover, in pronouncing that greeting, we clearly and concisely express to one another the history of today's Feast.”