

February 5, 2018

Dear Friends:

OUR GOD REIGNS!! Just thought we would throw that out there (smile). There are countless folks we know going through some really difficult things right now. On occasion, even the strongest of Christians can sometimes find their lives beat down by the worries, fears and cares of this world ...



by sickness, death, tragedy, disappointment, grief, or profound weariness in the face of unexpected challenges. Somewhere in the warp and woof of life, its easy to lose track of WHO our lives belong to, WHO is in control, WHO reigns eternal over both heaven and earth, and WHO loves each one of us with a boundless passion which motivates His every thought, attitude and action towards us. We are

held by Him, precious friends ... firmly, tightly, safely, lovingly, closely ... and He reigns. That's something we can hold onto even the darkest of times, **finding comfort, rest and security in His arms.**

Well, praise Jesus, this has been an exciting, yet rather crazy, transitional year! It's a relief to be (almost) coming out the other side of it. There was the turning over the revival center to the leadership team (and all that it entailed), the sale and purchase of various properties, the big move, fixing up the new place, some cancer surgery, fixing up the rental property (which we are still in the midst of), training to get on with the local school district to help our finances through some substitute teaching, trips to Oregon, Burma (Myanmar), New Mexico (twice) and C--- (restricted nation), many of which involved ministry... some of which involved *a lot* of ministry!

In January, we had a long visit from our Tanzanian pastor friend, Arthur Mbumbuka. He arrived just as we both came down with the flu/chest infections. We were able to minister to him some

while he was here, and show him many interesting places, despite our being so sick.



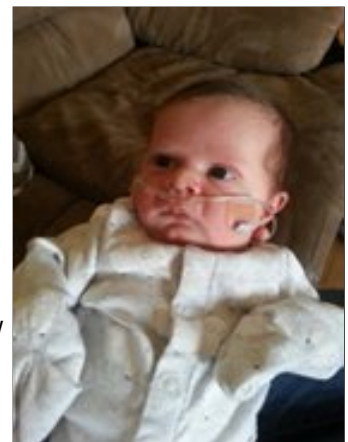
Arthur having fun at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola

Thank goodness we are both

finally well now and ready to face the next season of HOLY GHOST ADVENTURE ... after the dreaded tax season is over, of course! There is a joke that the people who struggle with their income tax can be divided into two categories: men and women. We are no different!! 😊

A Little Family News First!

Because we have some unusual family news, we wanted to touch on that first today. Ministry news will be shared shortly! We want to publicly welcome into the family our newest grandchild and only grandson so far, Owen Iefan Griffith. Yep, Lauren and Gareth finally had numero tres! Right after the last newsletter was sent out in October! She thought he would never come. There were a few small issues at the beginning, but Owen is now 3 months old and THRIVING!



Owen soon after birth

Next, Lauren and Gareth have been hoping to buy a house for over three years. But there were so many obstacles, it seemed next to impossible. Through a series of divine events, however, they have now closed on a 4 BR/2BA breezeway quad (townhome) in Los Alamos, plenty big for their growing family and a great fixer-upper investment property. It also happens to be a previous property that we owned and Lauren lived there in 1990 -1992!!! Isn't that wild? We can still rattle off the address – and now it is our daughter's home address 25 years later!

Finally, some of you have been praying for Justin and Sarah, as they were having difficulty finding the right house in Jupiter, FL at an affordable price. Well, they are now closing on a lovely older place down there (8 hours south of us) by Feb 20th and really want Dave to do some remodeling. So mom/mam/mum and dad are packing the bags and tools, loading the dogs in the truck, and heading down south at that point to help. The famous TV show is *Everybody Loves Raymond*. But when family members and friends have homes that need work, it's *Everybody Loves Dave*. Ha, ha.

Ministering in a Restricted Nation



At this town (missed the name) there were probably 100 people crammed inside and another 150 outside!

After returning from New Mexico in November, Dee packed her bags and headed with another woman minister to the Dominican Republic, and from there to their destination. Dee has had this country on her heart for decades. She felt that she would see firsthand how to pray more effectively for this country, and that her faith

level would move up a notch. The Lord also spoke to her that she would learn some things from the other minister, and that the other minister would learn some things from her. This all happened! Just as He said!

But ALSO, many, many precious people were touched by the power of God, saved, delivered, healed and encouraged! The congregations of something like 10 churches were touched, from the mega to the house church, all overflowing with the



Ministering in one of the big city churches

unsaved from the surrounding communities. One of the most poignant healings concerned a lady deaf and



The crowd at the church in the town of Jamaica

dumb for many years. Her friends brought her to Dee about half an hour after the finish of a service, excitedly yelling, "Look at her! Listen! See what God did!" She also had the opportunity to minister prophetically to a group of 20+ pastors (individually) in a regional ministerial meeting, seeing them weep as God touched their hearts, spoke into their situations and ministered encouragement to them. The Lord worked the miraculous at each of the military checkpoints. And He brought a number of divine appointments, including a friendship with a regional director for Young Life (youth ministry like YFC) in the Dominican Republic. It was simply an amazing trip! Dee knew it was fraught with danger, but she also knew God said GO! So she went ...

The Nations - Here in Florida

We have joined up with a local Latino Fellowship of about 150-200 people in Fort Walton Beach from **14 different Spanish-speaking nations**. Wow! Isn't God amazing? We are asked to minister on a regular basis, which is great fun!! And we are getting to know so many precious people. One thing we really like about this fellowship is that the pastors are not "normal" pastors and the church is not a "normal" church! We seem to fit right in! And, of course, our Spanish is improving as well.

What's Ahead for This Year?

TEXAS – Assuming the clearance comes through, Dave will be ministering at a prison in west Texas, and also conducting a seminar on worship leading with the inmates. He plans to share and minister in one of the local churches as well. Looks like Dee is going to hold down the fort here, since we will be heading to Mexico shortly thereafter.

MEXICO - We are looking at dates for a ministry trip back to Guaymas, Sonora in Mexico (where we were missionaries for 7 years), focusing on sometime between mid-May and early June. Hopefully, we can get it scheduled soon!

COLOMBIA – is tentatively scheduled for late November, but no dates have been nailed down yet. This ministry trip will be to an area about 3 hours inland from Barranquillas, which is on the north coast. It will be a trip together with a group from the local Latino church - CFTA. Details are still a bit thin on the ground at this point, but we will keep you updated.

IN BETWEEN – We are hoping to make it to the Shekinah Conference (we are part of the Shekinah Antioch Fellowship of Ministers) in late June, and connect with our friends and colleagues there. That's in northern Tennessee. And we are hoping to be here for the worst of hurricane season this year, which is August through most of November. But if we can squeeze in another ministry trip this year, we will do so! 😊

2019 Already Falling Into Place

While Arthur was here, we worked on the arrangements for the next ministry trip to **Tanzania** (in 2019). He wants us to come for at least two weeks, doing four separate pastoral equipping

conferences in four different areas of the region of Mbeya (southwest TZ). We will, of course, be ministering in some outdoor meetings and



Tanzanian brothers and sisters full of love and joy!

in various churches around the area also. And we are looking at adding some ministry in **western Kenya** into this trip also. We have developed a strong email relationship with a precious young minister in this area over the last 3 years. He has been waiting for us to come for a couple of years now. But we were recently contacted by another Kenyan minister about 45 miles from where Nicolas lives, asking us to come and equip pastors during the morning/early afternoon and minister in crusades in the late afternoons/evenings. Nicolas is going to check him out, and if he feels that it is a ministry of integrity, then we *may* add these two areas together and do a separate trip to Kenya. We'll see!

We still feel a pull back to **Myanmar (Burma)**, and we understand there are lots of folks there anxious to have us back, but just not sure when we can fit it in!
THIS BRINGS US TO SOME PRAYER NEEDS:

(1) The civil war in Kachin state in **Myanmar** is still waging between the secular Buddhist government and the people in the north (many of whom are Christians) who wish to be left alone. It has been going on, off and on, for 4 decades! Recently, it has heated back up and many innocent civilians are being killed, including women and children. There are many starving refugees from this war, one that you NEVER

hear about on the news. Please pray for these precious people, and for the Burmese Christians in other areas who are trying to reach out and help. One friend of ours there can barely feed his own family, but he is also trying to take care of 40 children orphaned by the civil war.

(2) Our dear friends, Monica and Najeeb, in **Pakistan** are diligently trying to rescue children from slavery (YES, there is still modern-day slavery!!). They have to buy the slaves into freedom. Last year, they purchased freedom for two boys. Right now, they are trying to raise money to purchase the freedom of a young mother and

her two children. They also run an orphanage. Both are ministers of the gospel. They are quite young, with two babies of their own. Please pray for their health and safety, and for the Lord's supernatural provision, as well as His divine provision and direction.

**We support these ministries, but if you would like to help with what we are able to send to them, please feel free to send a special donation to Lifeline Ministries (which is tax deductible), with the amount designated towards these specific needs. You can make a difference to precious people who are in desperate circumstances!

A Final Word of Thanks ...

Our hearts remain eternally grateful for the love you continue to shower upon us, and for the prayers lifted on behalf of us personally, Lifeline Ministries and the many people and nations being touched as we simply endeavor to be obedient to the Lord's call upon our lives. This month marks the beginning of our 29th year in ministry! And while the focus of the ministry has shifted slightly throughout the years, our love for the Lord and our love for people remain constant. Thank you for continuing to join with us in partnership to *release the Church in His power and touch the world with His love!*

We love you dearly,

Dave & Dee

