

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”. Col 1:12-14

Greetings from St. Louis airport where we are waiting for our flight back to Florida. We have been blessed this weekend, to visit our missionaries, Koku and Akpene in Quincy, Illinois. Koku and Akpene have raised almost all of their support needed to leave for Togo, West Africa where they will minister to the Togolese people. They are going back to their home country to share the good news of Jesus Christ! There will be a commissioning service by their sending church in Illinois the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and they hope to fly out just a few days after that. It is exciting to see all that God has done in their lives to finally bring them to the leaving stage. Will you pray that the last 8 % of their needed support will come in quickly? Will you pray that the items they need to set up house and do ministry in Togo will be gathered soon so that we can help them pack a container? Pray for them as they finish meeting with their churches and supporters and look forward to their commissioning service and leaving date the end of January. We praise God for all that He has done in and through them over these last few years.

Yesterday, while Koku and Akpene had another engagement, we drove about 30 minutes north and spent the morning with our good friend and colleague Rich Melvin. Rich was with us in the Ivory Coast and then in Niger. We have enjoyed ministry together over the years. It was a joy to visit him in his home and catch up on ministry and mutual friends.

This morning as we were leaving Quincy to drive to St. Louis it was 19 degrees. There was no snow but everything was covered in ice. We are thankful for a safe drive to the airport and we are looking forward to being back in warm, sunny Florida!

Our daughter Amy, husband Joseph Marshall and 4 boys arrived in Sebring a few weeks ago. We have enjoyed having both of our children and families together in the same town for a bit. It has been fun for our 7 grandchildren to spend time with their cousins. They will be returning to Benin in the next few months. In the meantime, we are very thankful for the family time.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December we will be flying to Virginia. We will be visiting some old friends, making some new friends and visiting one of our MK's. Please pray for safety as we fly, for continued good health and that we will be an encouragement to all we come in contact with. Pray that we will represent Faith Baptist Mission and most importantly Jesus Christ well!

We want to thank you for praying for Chris's health. He has continued to have nausea and stomach pain with no clear answers. One of his doctor's said he thought Chris might have an ulcer and he wanted to schedule an endoscopy and colonoscopy. When they consulted with the cardiologist and the doctor who did the stent, they said that Chris could not come off the blood thinners at this time. They said that the earliest he could have those procedures would be February. In light of that, his doctor decided to go ahead and put him on the medicine to treat an ulcer. We are so thankful to report that it seems to be working. For the last two weeks, Chris has not had the nausea or pain (unless he eats or drinks something that triggers it). Praise God with us and please continue to pray for Chris that the medicines would continue to heal.

Sunday, the Pastor of the church we attended preached a message on Thanksgiving. He said that Thanksgiving should not be just a one day of the year experience but as believers we should be thankful and show gratitude each day of the year! We have so much to be thankful for! We are thankful for a loving Heavenly Father! We are thankful for the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ! We are thankful for the privilege to serve Him each day! We are thankful for family and we are thankful for each one of you! Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. Thank you for holding the ropes for us over many years. We could not continue to do what God has called us to do without your faithful prayers and support!

As we face each day, let us choose to be thankful!

Thankful in all things!

*Chris & Diane*

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