

Dear Praying friends!

So much has happened over the last few months and we praise the Lord for wisdom, strength, safety and for just being the God that He is! January 17th we enjoyed spending the afternoon with Marc and Joanna Beckley. Marc is the son of Ken and Sarah, FBM missionaries serving in Niger/Benin. Marc and Joanna graduated bible college and married last summer. They were in Florida for some vacation time and drove to Sebring to spend an afternoon with us. It was good to hear how God is working and leading in their lives. Pray for them as they are involved in an internship at a church in W Virginia. Pray for them as they are interested in overseas missions. Pray for God's clear direction.

On the 18th of January we drove to Faith Baptist Mission in Winter Haven to help unload a U-Haul truck that had arrived from Illinois. It contained many items belonging to Koku and Akpene to be put on the container that would be shipped from FBM to Togo. We are thankful for those who helped. We are thankful for the man from Illinois who gave of his time to drive the truck to Florida. It is wonderful to be part of the family of God!

January 23rd, we boarded the plane and flew to Illinois. It was a joy to witness and participate in the ordination service for Koku and Akpene at First Baptist Church in Littleton, Illinois. A special group of supporting churches and friends were there to witness this special event and to send Koku and Akpene on their way to ministry in Togo. They flew out of Illinois later that week and have arrived in Togo. They are getting settled and have already begun ministering.

February 8th we hugged our grandsons, William, Josiah, Micah and Logan (several times and then several times again) and said goodbye to Amy and Joseph as they headed to Miami to begin their long journey back to Benin. The journey and process was not without hiccups along the way but they arrived safe and with all of their baggage. After being under quarantine they were able to reach their final destination. Pray for them as they adjust to hot season and do some needed repairs on their home in the village. They hope to have everything in working order soon.

We were supposed to begin packing the container for Koku and Akpene on the 22nd of February. But, there was a problem and the date was pushed forward a week. March 8th rolled around and the date was pushed again. Praise the Lord that on the 10th and 11th of March we were able to pack the long awaited for container with all of the items that had been purchased and donated in Illinois and all of the items that were collected and donated in Sebring and Winter Haven. With some really great help the 40' container was packed with all of the items including a Nissan Pathfinder. The container is now headed to Togo. Pray for the quick arrival. Pray for the items to be in great shape when they arrive. There will be a lot of jostling around as it is transported over road and then by ship. Pray for grace in the hearts of the customs officials. Pray that all of these items will be a huge source of encouragement to Koku and Akpene as they set up home and ministry. Praise the Lord!

Chris was cleared by his cardiologist and three different procedures were done in hopes of finding some answers to his health issues. We won't share all the "icky" details but we are thankful that there is no cancer. There is no ulcer. He does have diverticulosis and Barrett's Esophagus. There is some concern for his liver. BUT, all of these things can be treated and reversed with some lifestyle changes. We praise the Lord for that! As we make these changes, we pray that Chris will regain his strength and energy and feel really well once again. Thank you for praying with us over these last months and for continuing to pray for him.

We are excited to be a part of Faith Baptist Mission and all that God is doing in our midst. Last month we welcomed Chad and Amanda Winsor to the FBM family. Chad will be involved in facilitating construction projects to help missionaries and national churches around the world. We are also praying for another couple who have expressed an interest in joining FBM. We are thankful for each one of our missionary families and the ministries they represent. We are thankful that God is growing FBM. We are thankful for Stephen Simpson, our FBM president and his leadership. Please pray for Stephen, the FBM board and our missionary families as they seek to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we quiet our hearts over the next few weeks and look towards Easter celebrations, we are reminded of the great sacrifice that was made on our behalf. We are reminded of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and all that we have because of Christ. We have friends, neighbors and family members who do not yet know Christ as their personal Savior and our hearts are burdened. We are sure that your hearts are burdened for your friends, neighbors and family members as well. May we not only see the opportunities that God gives us each day to be a light for Him but may we act upon them.

Thank you for being a huge source of encouragement to us! We could not do what we do, without you! Thank you for your partnership in the ministry.

Have a Blessed Resurrection Celebration!

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