



It is now 18 days after my (Denise) open heart aortic valve replacement surgery. We are thankful to report that all went well with the surgery and the healing process is coming along. After six days in the hospital, she was able to move to the Airbnb we had rented in the area, and then three days after that, on August 12th, we began the journey back to Harrisburg. We are so thankful that our youngest daughter and her husband were able to drive out to Cleveland and stay that whole time. They were a big help to Gil as he needed a ride to and from the hospital because he cannot drive with his cast for six weeks.



This was my comfortable bed in the back seat of our SUV. Who knew they made special beds for that. I must be in the back seat for three months, so I'll have to get used to it. We won't always use the blow-up mattress though.



The two specific things we ask prayer for are for my breathing. It has been a challenge to get deep breaths and not have coughing fits. You see, they collapse the lungs for this type of surgery. The pumping abilities of the heart also decreased after surgery, which we are working towards improving. I'm doing three walks a day and I'm up to 23 minutes each. It is a challenge, but it feels good once I'm done.

Gil will be able to get his cast of the left hand on September 6th. He still struggles with pain and weakness in the right hand, but he is thankful that at least he can use it. He has gotten proficient at typing on the computer with only one hand.

Gil has been a blessing and encouragement to me as he helps me push on with my recovery. We will both be excited to put this period of our life behind us and move on to more exciting adventures.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME NEW PARTNERSHIPS

On September 13-15, we will be having a Good Soil Seminar at ABWE Headquarters. Sept 16 will be BibleStorying. We had a special request from a group called, Crossing Cultures International (CCI), asking us to train their foreign leaders who will be in the States during that time. The initial contact was through one of our ABWE missionaries in Cambodia. Some CCI missionaries appreciated some Good Soil principles and resources used by our missionaries in that country and wanted to learn more.



On September 16 we will be starting a longer trip down south. Our first stop will be in Martinsburg, WV, where Gil will be teaching one of his favorite classes, Moving Beyond Lecture.

From Martinsburg, we will be traveling down to Greenville, SC, to initiate a partnership with BJU Seminary. They kick off the year with a retreat at the Wilds camp in NC. Gil will be doing a couple workshops to introduce them to Good Soil



principles. The new leadership and strategic vision for the seminary is to put 500 pastors on the pathway to the pulpit over the next 5 years for every five years after that. We are excited that they want to use the Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship training to help prepare these pastors.



From South Carolina we will travel to Orlando, Florida, to be part of the MissioNexus Conference. This conference has many missions and churches in attendance. Good Soil is one of the sponsors and Gil will be doing a workshop. We are trusting that this will give Good Soil more exposure, so that other mission

agencies can take advantage of our resources in over 40 languages.

To top off the trip we will be spending a week with Gil's family in New Port Richey. I'm sure by that time we will be ready for a rest.

Please pray that our healing will be complete and that we will be ready to travel on this extended trip.

We have felt humble and thankful for all the prayers going up to the Father on our behalf. It has been a great comfort and encouragement to us.

Gil & Denise Thomas