

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”” Ps 91:1-2

“You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” Ps 16:11

“ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Heb 12:11

“Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to you, When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” Ps 61:1,2

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.” Rom 7:18

“...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” 2 Tim 1:12

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom 8:28

“...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil 4:11b ,13

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and he shall bring it to pass.” Ps 37:5

These are just a few of the journal entries that we have made over the last months. Verses from God’s Word and quotes that have spoken to our hearts. If you have kept up with us through our prayer letters over this past year, you will know that it has not been an easy year. Chris has had health issues, appointments, consultations and tests. In June we broke ground on our last “earthly” home (as we like to call it) and Chris has been doing much of the work himself. Diane’s dad has been living with us since February of 2022 when he had knee replacement surgery. He lived alone before he had the surgery and he fully expected to only stay with us a few days and he would be back at his house. The recovery from surgery was more difficult and longer than he expected. Not long into his stay with us we realized that he should not be living alone. He was diagnosed with dementia which the neurologist believes to be Alzheimer’s. The adjustment and change has not been easy.

We are thankful for the opportunity to care for our parents. We cared for Chris’ mom when she needed us and we have no regrets. We believe that it is a responsibility and privilege given to us by God. That being said, caring for Diane’s dad has been demanding and emotionally wearying. We have struggled with balancing our ministry responsibilities and our increasing family responsibilities.

A few weeks ago we shared our hearts with FBM Executive Director, Stephen Simpson. Stephen shared with the FBM board and the board has approved a Sabbatical for us. The Sabbatical began January 1, 2023 and will last for a minimum of 6 months. During this time, we will not be traveling for FBM. We will not be attending board meetings or fulfilling any of our other responsibilities for FBM. Stephen and the FBM board have been very gracious, understanding and supportive. We are thankful for their leadership and for their care of us.

Our goal is to step back, rest and lean deep into God trusting Him to make us more like Jesus. Our desire is to be fully re-engaged in ministry at the end of this Sabbatical. We are praying for the salvation of Diane's dad and for God's will in His life. Would you pray with us and for us?

Another quote from our journal... "We often pray to be delivered from calamities; we even trust that we shall be; but we do not pray to be made what we should be, in the very presence of the calamities; to live amid them, as long as they last, in the consciousness that we are held and sheltered by the Lord, and can therefore remain in the midst of them, so long as they continue, without any hurt." Streams in the Desert

You have been loving us, encouraging us and holding the ropes for us for many, many years. We are extremely grateful! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us. You can also reach out to Stephen Simpson at 863-229-7938.

For His glory and purpose!

Chris & Diane

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