

MERRY
Christmas

SCOTT & MARILEE
Norman

SERVANTS HELPING IN THE MINISTRY

November/December, 2023

*"Thanks be unto
God for his unspeakable
gift." II Corinthians 9:15*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These words in II Corinthians conclude Paul's great treatise on giving found in II Corinthians 8 & 9. At this time of year a lot of people think about giving. What a privilege it is to give to God's work; what a privilege it is to give to others; what a joy it is to give in order to bring joy and happiness to those in need; what a blessing it is to give to missions. As Paul admonishes us on the importance of giving, he concludes by reminding us that it is God who set the example. He gave us His Son, and, praise God, His Son Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins. This is an unspeakable gift indeed. To God be the glory because He has given us eternal life; He has given us the power to become the sons of God; He has given us riches untold. The above verse seems so appropriate during this time of year. As we are preparing to give gifts during this Christmas season, let us never forget the unspeakable gift, the ultimate gift; the great gift of sacrifice that God made when He sent His Son to die for us.

This letter comes to you as our November/December prayer letter. We do not have a lot to report, and that is because I spent the month of November and December having surgery and recovering. Nonetheless, God has been good to us, and we want to share with you the blessings that have fallen upon us during these last two months of the year. God indeed is a giving God, and He has given us so much.

On November 8, I had total knee replacement surgery. The surgery went well, but I must confess the initial recovery and therapy was something I was not prepared for. It has been a bit difficult, but we praise God that I am doing quite well at the moment. We were blessed to have my son Kevin and my daughter Priscilla and her husband Dan come and spend time with me the day of surgery and some days after. Our daughter Peggy came after the others had left to help Marilee with my care. They were a big help and a tremendous encouragement.

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The week of Thanksgiving was especially blessed. All four of our daughters and their families along with our son Nathaniel and his family joined us for Thanksgiving. We had a full house, and it was thrilling to have them with us. I must admit that I was not much of a host, but that did not stop us from having a wonderful time together as a family. Their presence was a tremendous encouragement to me as it had only been two weeks since surgery.

As I write this letter, it has been five weeks since surgery, and I am experiencing little to no pain, and therapy is progressing well. Therapy is to continue through the first week in January. I am able to walk without any assistance, but I do carry a cane with me now and then. Because of this, I was able to teach adult Sunday school on December 10. On December 24, I will have the privilege of filling in for Pastor Rusty Conyers, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, in Snow Hill, NC. This means so much to me because I am well enough to once again begin serving God in our ministry of helps. It has been definitely frustrating to be sidelined and unable to do much in the way of helping others.

Please pray as I am preparing to have my second knee replacement some time in February. I hope to have opportunities to fill the pulpit in January and do what I can while I am able to do it. I want to thank each and every one of you for the cards, emails, texts, and words of encouragement during this time of healing. Your thoughts and prayers have indeed been a real encouragement to both me and Marilee. I want to thank those of you who have so graciously given financial gifts to us during this time.

We do not have anything in particular planned for Christmas, but we know that some of our children and their families will be visiting us during the holidays. We are looking forward to a wonderful time with them. I take this time to wish each of you a very merry Christmas. May God richly bless you as you spend time with family and friends. I hope that all of you will have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Pray for us, and ever keep in mind
the unspeakable gift of
God during this Christmas
season!



SEEKING THE LOST • ENCOURAGING THE SAINTS • AT HOME AND ABROAD