

Merry Christmas from Alaska

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Nancy and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have so much for which to be thankful. God has been so good. But He is always good, even when we cannot understand why things happen and there doesn't seem to be any answers. We can still put our trust in Him, knowing that He knows all and is in control of it all, resting in Him and casting all our care upon Him for He has plans for our lives.

As many of you know, a lot has been going on physically with me over the past 18 months. After many visits with doctors and specialists, we received no answers, and the issue remained. We prayed and prayed, and many prayed with us and for us. We knew God heard and we knew He would answer, just not when or what the answer would be. After more prayer and seeking God's direction, we reached out to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. But there were some financial requirements that we just could not meet at the time. I knew God could help but it wasn't the right time to pursue them. We sought council with our local physician and one in Anchorage as well. They both agreed I should consider going to the Mayo Clinic. We prayed again and it seemed to be the right time. So late on Wednesday evening September 18, I submitted the paperwork online. I was still having breathing difficulties after a severe case of Covid. Two days later as we drove to Fairbanks First Care with further breathing issues, the Mayo Clinic called and said they could schedule an appointment for October 29th. We accepted the appointment and continued to Fairbanks, eventually ending up in the ER, where I was treated to relieve the symptoms and then released.

Through it all God has been so good and has worked so many things out in His timing. We got to Rochester, Minnesota the day before our appointment and rested up, not knowing what all was ahead of us. On Tuesday morning as we walked into the main lobby, we heard a group of young ladies singing "Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us". That brought such a calm to both of us. We saw our main doctor who would schedule all the other appointments that we would have over the next 9 days. We saw one doctor after another and had many tests. We are so thankful for all the help we received and continue to receive from the staff there in MN. We finally got some answers. They made changes to some of my medications and want to keep a closer check on my sleep apnea and my leaking heart valve. But the issue that is causing chest pain, voice problems and difficulty breathing is vocal cord dysfunction. The ENT physician diagnosed the problem in about 20 minutes time. When we first met him, he said 'tell me your story'. He listened as I shared with him, and he said he thought he knew what the problem was. As he was examining me, we talked a little about what I do, and he told me there are many churches in the area that need a pastor. He said I could stay there because there is a great need. Praise the Lord we finally got some answers. There is no cure for it but there are some voice exercises and other things I can do to help get the vocal cords to open properly. It is not life threatening, but it is scary when you can't get your breath. As a tech was preparing me for one of my last tests, we were talking about God, His goodness, and all He has done for each of us. As he finished preparing me for the test, he asked if he could pray with me. Of course, I said yes, and he prayed for me and the test and then took me to the room for testing. Praise the Lord, things went well, and a lot was discovered that needs to be addressed and what to do to improve my overall health. God is so good!

We returned to Alaska after being in Rochester, MN for 13 days. I am doing much better and have had some episodes since returning but praise the Lord that the exercises help and have kept me from getting into a more stressful situation. We are working on getting a voice therapist to help with the vocal cord dysfunction.

Since returning, I have had many opportunities to minister here in Delta. I still have voice issues after talking for an extended length of time. But praise the Lord I can still minister in different ways as God opens doors. The other night I was getting some repairs done to my windshield. While there I was talking with the technician as he was finishing the repairs. I paid him, gave him a tract and he said he remembered me from the clinic several years ago when his wife was about to be medevacked to Anchorage. He said that I prayed with them and that it meant so much. I asked how she was doing, and he said she was doing great. Praise the Lord! Yesterday while at the bank, a young Russian lady waited on me. She didn't recognize me until she saw my name on the account. She asked if I knew the other Wyricks that live in town. I told her that I remembered her and then she recognized me. Nancy and I taught her and her siblings at Bible clubs and Vacation Bible School. She said that we were such a blessing to her growing up. There have been many Russian young people that we taught over the years that have come up to us and told us how much we meant to them when they were children. Many of them are still in church, but sadly some are not. Please continue to pray for the people here in Delta, many are struggling both spiritually and physically.

We want to thank everyone for all your prayers, support and understanding when we were gone from the field a lot these last few years. But please know we are thankful for you and appreciate all you do for us. We try to be servants and minister anywhere God may have us at the time and glorify Him in all that we do. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

In His Service,

Ernie + Nancy Wyrick