HELLO FRIENDS + FAMILY,

THE LORD IS FAITHFUL AND HE IS INDEED 600D!

We are right now in the U.S. visiting family and many friends. Julie is home after 3 years! We are here for the holidays and enjoying the goodness of God every step of the way.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

As mentioned in our previous update, the Lord has opened a door for a prison ministry in Subotica. We asked you to pray that prisoners would be interested to have Bible studies in prison (that was the condition given by the warden), and thank you for praying. The Lord did provide! Just before Julie and I left for the U.S., nine prisoners expressed their desire to learn about the Bible and God. So our church started having Bible studies once a week in the prison! The latest information that I received was that there are now 15 prisoners coming to the Bible studies. For God nothing is impossible!

TIME OF REFRESHMENT

Being here in the U.S. the Lord has given us and is continuing to give us great times of refreshment. He is renewing our vision and establishing things that He has already given us to do as we serve Him in Serbia.

Since arriving, our family, friends and the family of God have embraced us with love and care in a way that we couldn't even have imagined. We have been extremely blessed by the Calvary Chapels in Pocatello, Whitefish, Yorba Linda, Cross Currents Christian School, and other home fellowships that we were blessed to be part of. We also recently shared about our ministry in our oldest nephew's first grade class. The Lord has supplied numerous opportunities to share about what He is doing in and around us, which has also been a constant reminder and encouragement for us of His work.

THE LEGACY OF A GODLY MAN

One of our great desires concerning our coming here is that we wanted to see Julie's grandpa (her Dad's dad). We heard that he was not well and we wanted to see him. I hadn't met him yet and Grandpa Mercer was a very influential person (just as Grandma) in bringing his family to the Lord. Julie's brother got saved through him and Julie got saved through her brother. Grandpa and Grandma are truly examples and inspiration for us and our family in following the Lord.

The Lord answered our prayer and we were able to see him at the beginning of this month in Everett, Washington. We had two days that the Lord gave us to be with him. Even though he was not doing so well and suffered from dementia, he recognized Julie and I got to meet him. We talked with him, laughed, read the Bible, sang Christmas songs, took pictures... A great blessing was that before we left Julie had a chance to say goodbye to him, and even though it was a hard moment, it was something that brought great joy to us. The night of the day that we left Everett, (we found this out next day when we arrived at our destination) December 9th, the Lord called grandpa Gerald Laverne Mercer home! We have no doubts that upon his arrival the first words he heard were "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord."

HEALTH

Being here Julie was able to get her health checked. The Lord was faithful in opening doors to us to meet with a cardiologist who has great recommendations and he was willing to see Julie. After some tests and two visits it seems that Lord showed us what was/is source of some problems that she had with chest pains. She was given some simple medication and is doing much better. The traveling has been a bit hard on her at times, but overall her health is greatly improved. According to His faithfulness, the Lord has provided for all of this, and we are truly thankful.

Thank you for all of your love and care for us! We have so much to be thankful for because of you, our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. May the Lord grant you His peace and bring you into nearer fellowship with His Son, especially as this time of year can bring much activity and not so much time for reflection and quiet. "The Lord shall bless His people with peace" (Psalm 29:11). Amen.



Prayer Requests

- that we will be a blessing to all who we are meeting with while here
- to clearly hear from the Lord & be prepared for our return to Serbia and the ministry He has called us to there
- to be Spirit-filled and grow in our marriage
- health and strength; safe travel during the rest of our time here and back to Serbia January 11th
- for Dejan, who will be sharing at Calvary Chapel Pocatello's monthly men's fellowship, Dec. 30th
- comfort and closure for our family after Grandpa's passing
- God's anointing on those who minister at the prison in Subo

In memory of Gerald L. Mercer



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