

## Words from the Woodwards

December 2022

Dear friends in the faith,

Thank you for your fellowship in the Rest of the Gospel. Isaiah prophesied this Good News seven centuries before Christ's birth:

"For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

In the Christmas season we are thinking about gift-giving. The greatest gift of all is the gift of eternal life in Christ and all the blessings given to us through Him (Eph 1:3). In counseling we have the privilege of leading hurting people to new discoveries of God's grace and provision for abundant life. Andrew Murray observed, "All the powers of Deity which already wrought together in the accomplishment of the first part of the eternal purpose, the revealing of the Father's likeness in the man Christ Jesus, are equally engaged to accomplish the second part, and work that likeness in each of the Father's children." Amen.

### *Ministry News*

We give thanks for a good attendance at the Finding Freedom Seminar last month. The Exchanged Life Counseling Workshop was also a fruitful time. We had testimonies that God used the fellowship, teaching and equipping to be life-changing. Six Luther Rice College & Seminary students did their practicum through GFI this semester. What a mutual blessing.

I traveled to Phoenix, Arizona Dec. 2-5 to speak at the celebration of life service of Lee and Mary Turner. Lee was 93 and put his wife's hands in the Lord's just three weeks before his home-going last July. At the service there were meaningful testimonies of how the Lord ministered through this precious couple. On Monday morning I spoke at our sister ministry there – Victorious Christian Living (VCLi.org). A retired veteran also attended and was touched through the wheel and line message. We had meaningful fellowship and shared resources.

At GFI we are staying very busy with in-person, phone and zoom counseling sessions. We rejoice that our six Guides are starting to take appointments so we can minister to more people who contact us week by week.

## *Christmas season*

Linda and I anticipate having our family being together at our home for Christmas. That includes Laura's family, driving south from Toronto, and Brad & Lilah driving east from Nashville.

Thank you so much for standing with us through prayer and financial support. May you and your loved ones enjoy a healthy, joyful and meaningful Christmas season!

Love in Christ,

*John*



Luther Rice Seminary students



Linda and I attended an event at DW

Mailbox:

Dear John, The staff loved having you share last week! You were a blessing. Thank you for coming! We appreciated receiving all your resources too. Have a wonderful Christmas. – VCLi

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