

## Words from the Woodwards

June, 2024

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
From whence comes my help?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth."  
Psalm 121:1,2

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,

I give thanks for fruitful and safe ministry trips in April. We had such a good attendance at the **Boston** seminar. The following week Linda and I had an encouraging weekend with our friends at First Baptist Church in Proctorville, **Ohio**. Linda spoke at a women's banquet and I preached morning and evening on Sunday.

You are hearing about the new Exchanged Life **Chaplaincy track**. I was blessed to take the course in March and was welcomed into International Fellowship of Chaplains (IFOC) in April. We already have four other GFI alumni who have taken this training and we trust this will be a valuable avenue of personal ministry and equipping. I anticipate attending the IFOC national conference in Texas, September 12–14, and will have a GFI table there to introduce our ministry resources.

Our friends in **South Africa** helped us to publish another article in the prominent Christian magazine there, *Joy* (June issue). The accompanying advertisement promotes our sister ministry there, Curare (curarecc.org). Mark and Carrie McKeehan are scheduled to return there this September for some exciting and strategic ministry events.

My next ministry trip is to **Nicaragua**, July 17–21. The missionary couple there, Eric and Wendy, have done a thorough job with the planning. Your prayers for God's blessing on the teaching and equipping activities there are appreciated.

It's been encouraging to see our new publication, *Christ is Life: A Personalized Discipleship Notebook*, being marketed. People are starting to discover its potential and excellent cover and formatting. My next **writing project** is to finish a book that has been on the back burner for a few years, *Jesus of Nazareth: The True and Living Way*. The video series on John 14:6 was done in 2016 and has been available online. Hopefully, I can revise the preliminary notebook and get it published as an outreach resource.

Our Monday night zoom meeting continues and we appreciate the opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and testimonies (all are welcome). This month's meetings will include testimonies of trainees that I hope to record to make available.

### Family

Linda has been busy with Dollywood training activities and chaplaincy. Last week she and I ministered at a funeral for a family employed at Dollywood. Most of those in

attendance were unchurched, so it was an important opportunity to share God's comfort and the gospel. Linda expects to do the IFOC chaplaincy course in July.

I was able to go to the Atlanta area for my father's 90th birthday on May 4. It was good to see our extended family there.

You may recall the news of our twin grandsons, Lincoln and Levi. Levi has been struggling with digestive difficulties and is quite small for his age. After getting a surgically-implanted feeding tube a few weeks ago, he is finally doing better.

We are looking forward to our daughter Laura's family visiting us from Ontario the first part of July. We will also be celebrating Brad turning 40 and our sons, Stephen and Jared, turning 34. Time flies...

It is a privilege to continue providing **counseling** for clients locally and over phone and zoom. What a blessing to have 9 GFI Guides now serving under our umbrella with Exchange Life Counseling (usually provided by zoom meetings). It is a joy to assist and supervise them as well.

Thank you again for your fellowship, prayers and support. May the joy of the Lord continue to be your strength.

Yours in Christ,

*John*



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