



HEALING HEARTS MINISTRIES Inc.

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Dear Family and Friends,

Wow, have we got some catching up to do!

Last January 5th we received a message from Debbie's brother letting us know that her dad, Frank Calleja, had returned to the hospital with pneumonia. Within a week or so we realized he also had lung cancer. On January 25th surrounded by our family, our 87 year old dad stopped struggling to breath and went home to be with Jesus!

We flew to Huntsville on January 22nd and would end up staying in town at mom-Shirley's house until the 17th of April. (almost three months)

Five days after Debbie's dad's memorial service, we called 911 sending mom-Shirley back to the hospital with her 4th blood infection. Within the next week we would discover that she could no longer live in her home. As we petitioned the Lord for guidance He launched a series of miracles that resulted in an available unfurnished suite for her at a retirement home in Huntsville just down the hall from her long time christian friend Ruth. On February 15th we transported mom-Shirley from the hospital to Roger's Cove where she was received by a welcome committee who were waiting for her arrival. Hugs and tears flowed. (We had moved her belongings into the suite the day before)

We wish we could say that everything came together smoothly and without a hitch but life is rarely like that. We faced unexpected, relentless opposition and the exhaustion of family strife with every decision and action that we were responsible to make. Also, memory loss, weakness and confusion enhanced by the blood infections, made this transition especially difficult for mom-Shirley and us who were trying to help her understand the new surroundings and routine. Letting go and accepting help was hard. Changing roles with your parent is hard. God is faithful.

May 24th was the closing day of the sale of mom-Shirley's house. We arrived back home here in Nipawin on April 22nd and helped facilitate the closing day of the house sale long distance.

We have given you the brief skeleton of events but we are sure you can imagine the emotional and physical work involved in helping facilitate two mom's in their 80's in grief and transition, the massive job of cleaning, sorting and selling the house and all the details that go with that. (Ken, his brother Graham and Debbie are joint Power's of Attorney and so we worked through all the books, banking and selling of the house together)

The Lord our sustainer raised up the love, care, help and support of many of our christian friends and we were so very blessed to have had the time to enjoy sweet fellowship! Thank you so much dear friends! We miss you already and continue to thank God for the way he used you to speak into our lives! You know who you are :)

Now that we are home, our main agenda is trying to recover. Here's how Mandy worded our condition in her most recent prayer letter,

“We continue to pray about our need for another couple, or a couple of interns, to come to Nipawin and team with us. Our little church continues to fill with people and each one matters to God. Our team can only stretch so far...and presently we are going through a bit of a transition where teammates (Ken & Debbie Matthews, Mandy's parents) who are needing to gear down in order to allow God to minister to them for a while. Please pray for them, and with our team, as we seek someone God has both gifted and called to join us.”

As well as both physical and emotional fatigue, Ken and I are trying to get our health on track. The Lord most definitely sustained us through the challenges but our bodies are not as young as they used to be and are currently screaming for attention :)

You will notice in the above quote the prayer request regarding new help for our ministry here. This

will continue to be a need even once we are in better shape. The burgeoning population of children, young teens and their families in the marginalized community that we reach out to through our 'mission' church requires more 'hearts on deck'! More called believers with a *heart* for reaching out with God's truth through building relationships and becoming a part of our church family.

Praise items...

1. *The Lord gave us multiple evidences that dad is indeed safely home. The grieving continues.*
2. *The Lord is sustaining mom-Helen through her time of grieving and has provided her with a support group called, Grief Share.*
3. *We were already in Huntsville when we were needed by mom-Shirley.*
4. *That mom-Shirley became ready and willing to sell her house.*
5. *The Lord blessed our local Nipawin fellowship with such a fruitful time under the shepherding care and ministry of Marsden and Mandy and because of that there is a need for more help :)*
6. *That we were invited to share at the Roger's Cove Chapel which lead to opportunities to sit, listen and pray with many of the folks living there.*

Prayer requests...

1. *For wisdom and discernment for Ken and I as we recover and transition into new ministry roles. (for continued help for our health concerns)*
2. *For help in the form of a young couple or a pair of Bible College interns for this fall to team with Marsden and Mandy on the front lines.*
3. *For both our mom's as they adjust to a new season of life and our brothers who are their 'in town' family care. And us as we continue that role by phone.*
4. *For Ken and I that we will co-operate with the Lord as He, "makes us lie down in green pastures and leads us beside still waters." excerpt from Psalm 23*

Over all of the time that we were away the Lord kept bringing us back again and again to Proverbs 3:5-6 sustaining us through all the uncertainty and unknowns with His guidance. We continue to be blessed with *new* life lessons on what it means to *trust in the Lord with all your heart*.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart (What's in your heart that you need to trust Him with?)
and lean not on your own understanding; (Are you still trying to figure life out yourself?)
in all your ways acknowledge Him, (recognize where He's involved in your day-to-day)
and He will make your paths straight. (Trust Him to show you what's next)

Still in His Wonderful Care,

Ken and Debbie Matthews

(serving the Lord in Nipawin Sask. with HHM Inc.)

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(please send all financial support directly to HHM address found at the top right hand side of letter. We are project #85. Thank you :)

