

MERRY CHRISTMAS – 2020

Greetings from East Tennessee! What a year we have had! It started with a five bypass heart surgery for Don in January, only to get home from the hospital to see that COVID had developed in our country and was spreading rapidly! As everywhere, ministry has slowed greatly, but has not ceased. RidgeCrest Bible Church has continued to meet with everyone wearing masks on Sunday mornings and prayer meetings on some Wednesdays. We continue to help with support for 7 missionaries who visit the church as they can. We were able to have 2 Bible Schools, instead of our usual 6, this summer. Hopefully, in 2021 we can return to the schools and nursing homes, as well as all our summer children's ministries.

When COVID hit the migrant Hispanic farm worker camps in August, they closed their doors to all outsiders. Since we weren't allowed in the camps, we took hygiene kits, including tracts and correspondent courses, and delivered them to the workers. The farm office received them and an employee took them into the labor camp for us. We pray that God uses the tracts and correspondence courses to bring them to Him. Thankfully, we can visit on our phones with people, and were able to ZOOM to our church folks in the spring. COVID IN East Tennessee is on the rise again now, (the rate of COVID spread is one of the highest in the nation), so things may tighten up again in the near future. We know that God is in control, is fully aware of all that has happened, and His hands are not tied.

Please pray that we can take advantage of new opportunities as they arise, and that our eyes are open to see new ways to minister in our work here. It is such a joy to do ministry as we can!

Concerning Don's health, things are improving very well. The last EKG was greatly improved, and results from an echo scan showed increased strength for the upper part of his heart. This increased from 25% to 35%, with the goal being 50%. Also, the pacemaker is doing a great job keeping the heart rhythm regular and strong. Due to these reports, **we believe that God has more work for us to do in our area!**

We look forward to Nicholas and Allie having their second child the end of February 2021. They are having a girl, so Wesley will have a little sister soon. Please pray for a safe delivery for mother and child. John, Karen, and family are well in Colorado, but please continue to pray for Khylei and her emotional difficulties. Adrian, Kristi, Emily, and Lauren are all well, and Kristi and the girls were able to join us for Thanksgiving. We hope the family will stay well and be able to get together for Christmas.

We anticipate ministry to open up more as we progress through 2021, and we are excited about opportunities returning. **Thank you for standing with us during these strange and challenging times! We know our Lord is in control and has plans for all of us in the days ahead.** When doors open again we will inform you about these ministries so you can effectively pray for the work here. **Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year as we, as believers, follow our Lord's leading for the future!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS! MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS IN 2021!

Love in Christ,

Don and Carol

FAMILY



Karen & John's girls:
Khylei, Eva, & Lizzie
along with new puppy
Caspian

Below—
Kristi and Adrian's girls
Lauren, Emily & Kyber



Below:
Allie, Nick, Wesley, Don & Carol

