

August 24, 2017

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

This is the first time I have been allowed to get downstairs to my computer. After being busy in meetings in the South, the Midwest, and helping to plant a new church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, I had a stroke. Since I had trouble walking, etc., my therapist had to help me train my brain to walk and do other mental and physical things. Physical and occupational therapists came to my home to help, as well as a nurse. They would not allow me to use the stairs to get to my office and my computer.

A month later, my heart starting beating to slow, but I tried to keep doing my therapy for several weeks, until my therapist said, "I would send you to the emergency room right now, but since you have an appointment with your family doctor, I will let him send you there." When I saw my doctor, he was alarmed. My heart rate was at 32 beats a minute, and I could barely keep going. Immediately, he sent me to the emergency room. By the time we got there, my heart rate was down to 25 beats a minute, which caused a host of people to scramble to keep me alive. The rest of the story is quite involved, so I will give you a small capsule of everything.

After several days, they decided to put in a pacemaker. The cardiologist who put it in pierced my heart with one of the leads causing my heart to bleed. Because of this mistake, I almost died. I was in critical condition on the ICU Heart Trauma Floor. Another cardiologist finally diagnosed and corrected the problem. Because of all the trauma my body has been through, the cardiac team said it will take me three months to get back to normal with more bad days than good ones. Much more could be said about the weeks in the hospital in June and most of July, but since I am still very weak, this will have to suffice.

Please forgive me for being so far behind. I will try to get out prayer letters for the months I am behind in the near future, Lord willing. I did try to put some things on Facebook from my smart phone, but many of you are not on Facebook or are not yet one of my Facebook friends.

My health has hindered me from raising the much needed funds for National Bible Publishing Month, our Bearing Precious Seed General Fund, and for rolls of paper for our large press. It breaks my heart that my health has really impeded me from doing the ministry of getting out God's precious Word to those who are pleading for it. I have shed many tears in the night over this. The need for the published Word of God is overwhelming!

Please pray for Marie and I. My wife has been through as much trauma as I have. It has been hard on her, but she amazes me with her strength to keep going and to keep me going for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel. It is a privilege to win people to the Lord and to help others spiritually even when you are hurting.

May God bless each of you precious supporters for being faithful during this time. We cannot thank you enough. We love you, appreciate you, and are praying for you.

Yours for Christ and His Word,

Dr. Bob & Mrs. Marie Ford
Ephesians 3:20, 21

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