

NEWSLETTER 47 May 5th 2019

One of my friends has 'kindly informed' me that I have not written on my web page for quite a time. *Tempus fugit* (time flies) when you go past 80 - while everything else slows down! God continues to be so good to us and we continue to praise Him.

After the thrill and busyness of last summer we looked forward to another season with university students at our home each week. However, **Anne was diagnosed with cancer again** and, as the possible side-effects from the chemo were quite horrendous, we decided not to host the group as we could not be sure how Anne would be feeling each week. We certainly miss them! We need not have feared as she has done remarkably well, finally having the mass under her right armpit successfully removed last week. She will continue with a reduced dosage of chemo until the oncologists are satisfied.

Even without the weekly group my ministry at the university continues with weekly prayer walks (4 of us now!) and shared prayer times with students from other Christian ministries on campus. I still have the privilege of **mentoring some students**.

Steve (newsletter 45) now presents a monthly apologetics session, well attended. This month he spoke on "*Why is there evil in the world?*" His teaching was very good but his visuals were outstanding. I believe the Lord has a great future for him. You can see more at www.CBInfo.ca.

Patricia has returned home after 6 months touring university campuses investigating the Christian climate there, travelling from Australia, through Asia and the Middle East to Europe. She had many God-appointments en route. Read more at www.patriciaengler.com.

Shane and Kristie are like son and daughter to us. I met them while ministering in Haiti many years ago and have talked on Skype with Shane almost every other week. I preached at his last induction service. He called me 4 weeks ago, very distressed as he had just witnessed a fatal shooting at the church he was attending. You can read about it on line by looking up "fatal shooting at Salmon Arms church". When the shooter came back into the church, Shane grabbed his assault rifle and, with others, wrestled the young man to the ground where he was held until the police arrived. Naturally, Shane was shaken up and needed to hear my voice. He has since proven his calling, ministering to the rest of the congregation while dealing with his own grief. We are relieved that their two children did not witness the killing.

Continuing on a bitter/sweet note: two of my friends with cancer, mentioned in the last newsletter, have passed to their reward. I had the joy of spending four days in Kitchener, Ontario, with Bob shortly before his 'promotion'. He was just 65. My 4 days were full and so blessed, spending time with Bob and Debbie, Ruth and Steve, Bill and Carrie (all from my first church), Hugo and Jacqui (Anastasis days) and my first pastor in Canada, John. My return home was not so sweet however, as I ended up in hospital with pneumonia (the 80 year old's 'friend').! I must be in quite good health otherwise, as I was fully recovered within 10 days.

Sadly, my other very special friend in Wales, Rob who has spent many holidays visiting us in Canada with wife Frankie, passed away just last week (~67) with a brain tumour. Both men, with their wives, were strong Christians, so we rejoice in a sure hope of seeing them again "in the morning" as we worship together around the Lamb's throne.

Other Ministry: I have been blessed recently with several invitations to speak at a small local church. They seem to like me and I sure enjoy being in the "preaching mode" again! When a man is called by God he finds it very difficult to lay down his arms and live a life of ease, when there remains "a fire burning in his belly". I have also been invited to conduct a second weekly Bible Study with a group of

ladies meeting at a friend's home. They asked me to teach on Ephesians – my favourite book. My other weekly group continues – we are currently studying 1 Peter.

My other ministry involves weekly visits with two men "in care". Nic is an old friend who wants to 'go home'. I read to him each week while he finds it hard to communicate with me. Sam is a new friend who is partially paralysed after a fall. He is of Sikh background but recently I had the joy of leading him to faith in Christ. He is radiant in his new life!

I'm beginning to babble on so I need to close. Thank you for turning to my web page. I hope you find some interesting material there and that it will draw you closer to the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. To Him be all the praise!

Gareth,
Victoria
BC Canada.