

One of the greatest privileges I have had over recent years is the number of young men who have sought my advice in **mentoring**. I have been thrilled to see them grow in passion for the Lord, His Word and personal holiness. But all things have their "season" - most have now left Victoria and been 'scattered' through this province and into the Yukon Territory. Addison (Bethi) is now co-pastoring a church in Vancouver; James (Audrey) is at Regent College, Vancouver where he is studying for his MDiv; Harrison (Kaitlyn) is in the Yukon and studying for his MDiv by correspondence. Finally, David (Emily) left at the beginning of this month to also live in the Yukon. I shall miss them very much but rejoice to know that the fire is burning brightly in each one of them - they truly are learning to 'soar like the eagle'. David and I would meet each Tuesday morning to pray for the local Community College where he was a missionary. Of course, my praying will continue even without his company. There are other precious believers there whom, I'm hoping, God will raise up with the same passion as the ones named here. One of the greatest delights occurred on my birthday, Nov 21st, when 4 of these young men appeared at our door with a special meal they had put together to honour me. Thank you guys!

Other **ministry opportunities** have continued. In November, I was invited to Lumby in the Okanagan Valley, central BC, where I was asked to teach on **Revival**. Two churches, Lumby and Coldstream, joined together, so I was very busy between the two, speaking 7 times in all. It was quite tiring but, as the subject is close to my heart, the burden was very light. The Lumby church is pastored by Shane (Kristie) Mattenley, whom I met on my visit to Haiti some years ago. In November I spoke to a College and Career group at Addison's church on the subject *A Christian Attitude to Finances*. A few weeks later I was at another Coll & Career group in my home church, answering questions raised during their own Bible studies. Besides these 'specials' I have been privileged to teach a weekly study on Hebrews – the book of 'better things'. Included among my 'students' are a lady and her two daughters from Oregon, USA, who found this web page, read that I was about to teach on Hebrews and so asked me for my teaching notes. I hope, one day to meet them on a visit to this beautiful city. I also consider as ministry, my regular times with a Muslim lady whom I am helping improve her English, for her medical qualifications in Iran to be recognised in Canada. We have good times together and I am able to pray with her "in the name of Isa" (Jesus).

Health-wise we are beginning to 'feel our age'. I continue to have some difficulties with my leg though a second MRI still could find no problem. In fact, the opposite, as everything looks good around my spine, hips, etc., with no arthritis or such. Indeed, at a full medical in December, my doctor said that my health is "excellent" - like a young man's! Both Anne and I rejoice that our cancers have shown no signs of returning.

The weather in Victoria continues to amaze us – it hardly seems like winter! Of course, that doesn't stop us becoming excited at the prospect of traveling to **Brisbane** next month (where it is very hot!) to see our daughter Lynette and her family, especially our youngest grand-daughter Emma who will marry Luke in February. We also anticipate traveling across to Perth to see other special friends. We return to Canada at the end of April.

We thank the Lord constantly for His goodness to us. Our three **daughters and their families** are all in good health. Though far away from us, we know we can trust them to His hand – and we do enjoy our regular FaceTime conversations. Corinne is excited as she sees her new home becoming a real asset to her; Terry is living with us now that his mother has been placed "in care". He is a blessing to us. Andrea and Rob continue to give such good reports of what is happening in Wales where Rob pastors Mt Zion church in Cardigan; Lynette and Phil are building a new home in Brisbane where they attend Hillsong Church – and are preparing to welcome a new member (Luke) to the family. As I write, their son Michael is in BC for a brief holiday – we hope to see him in three days time.

Please write to let us know if this web page is a blessing to you. I am always thrilled when I receive such letters from so many different countries.

May the Lord richly bless you with good health and happiness – especially with a revelation of His great love for you.

Rejoicing in His mercies,

Gareth

Victoria BC