

NEWSLETTER 43 May 2017

After my long newsletter in October, this one will be short. We had a long winter in Victoria with several snowfalls – unusual for this part of the world where the weather is usually much milder than in the rest of Canada.

My ministry has continued – regular prayer times at the university; Bible studies in our church and mentoring opportunities. I completed teaching on Romans before presenting a 4- part teaching on the sacraments – water baptism and communion. Then I taught a series on Galatians. All my teachings may be found on this webpage under Teaching. There were further opportunities to teach at Celebrate Recovery and good fellowship times at Dinner for 8 gatherings. I recommend them as a good way to get to know others in a more intimate way ‘around the table’.

I wrote before of my practice, to reminisce and consider the many ways and places in which the Lord has allowed me to sow His seed, sometimes well, sometimes poorly. I ask that He would bring forth fruit from that seed, even today, so that someone, somewhere, would be drawn closer to Himself. I have since been in touch with two dear couples from my first church in Kitchener, Ont. 1979-83. One contacted us to write that she had been advising a friend in a trying situation and realized that she was quoting my words from a sermon I once preached there. Apparently, it was a blessing then and proved to be a blessing over 30 years later. Thank you, Lord!

In April, our pastor retired. He and his wife had been faithful missionaries for many years in Latin America before coming to Victoria. His successors are the current Youth and Children’s pastors who now become Lead pastor and Associate. I am excited about the future as I see a deep hunger there for deeper intimacy with God. Rob, the new lead pastor, has honoured me in seeking times together.

On a personal note: Anne’s cancer had suddenly returned after my trip to UK in August – she underwent surgery but has recovered very well. She now attends a local post-cancer centre where she does regular exercise and has guidance in matters of diet. Sadly, she might have to undergo another surgery! Her thyroid glands have swollen and are causing breathing problems. Through all this, she remains so positive and cheerful. I am so amazed at the gift God has given me in a precious wife whose strong faith is such an encouragement in my ministry. (To see what I think of her, look at the poem I wrote for our 50th wedding anniversary – under Poems.)

Thank you again for reading my newsletter. I hope you are blessed as you peruse my web page. It was set up to be an encouragement and teaching tool – but also to be a means of “keeping in touch” with so many friends – like you - from around the world.

I am now preparing for a weekend camp with the Chinese Alliance Church – so back to my books.

The Lord bless you all,

Gareth