

WBFJ NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Happy New Year! That phrase is often uttered as a wish more than a promise. As we reflect on 2017, there were plenty of “not so happy” moments for many individuals. However, when the Bible speaks of God’s people being “happy,” the word is defined as “blessed.” The Psalmist David prayed for God’s people to be strengthened in such a way that they might be “happy” – “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.” (Psalm 144:15). Even amidst discouragement and disappointment, God’s people were blessed in 2017. And we can anticipate being blessed in 2018, which will make for a “Happy (Blessed) New Year.”

One of those unpleasant moments in 2017 occurred on Thanksgiving Day, when we received word that Missionary David McClure had suffered a massive stroke. Four days later, Bro. David went home to be with the Lord. David and Dottie McClure have been on furlough, and Bro. David had recovered well from a recent knee surgery. Though his appointment to enter heaven was ordained by God, it was certainly unexpected to us. Bro. McClure leaves a great legacy with three generations of missionaries serving the Lord. Please be in prayer for his wife, Dottie, as she adjusts to life without Bro. David. Also, be in prayer for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as the people from the work in Saipan who will be grieving in the days ahead. Praise God that the separation is temporary, and we now have one more reason to look forward to heaven!

Tim, Joy, Isaac, Ethan, Landon, and Kayleigh Guenther will be applying in January to renew their visas for New Zealand. The visas expire in March. This can sometimes be a complicated process. Please pray that all goes smoothly for them.

Health updates:

Jeannie Higgins’ upper arm is still not healing well. She has been undergoing tests to see if she is a good candidate for surgery. Please pray that she would be relieved from pain and that her arm would heal.

Isa Horton recently had an MRI in which they discovered she has a bulging disc and two ruptured discs in her lower back. She will be receiving a shot and physical therapy for the bulging disc and will need surgery for the ruptured discs. Please pray for a quick recovery for Isa and that God would provide the needed funds for medical expenses.

Dave Schembera is recovering well and back at the mission office. Please continue to pray for Bro. Dave as he will need another surgery after completely recovering from this last surgery.

The following individuals in our missionary family need your prayers for ongoing health needs: Joan Adcock, Monnie Bacon, Charles & Juanita Bowen, Dale Brown, Monoka Brown, Phil & Mary Gagnon, Debi Harris, Ronda Hastings, Betty Hawkins, Norman & Jeannie Higgins, Mary Horton, Gary & Sandy Janky, Dana & Mark McCutchen, Brenda Morrow, Gayle Sparks, Jessie Starling, Amy Sullivan, Bonnie Winters, and Lanny Wood.

As we begin this New Year, we recognize that our time is short and the harvest is plenteous. God’s people will continue to face many challenges in the days ahead. Please pray that we might remain focused on what really matters: the Glory of God and the saving of souls. Author Paul E. Miller wrote, “Can we surrender our concern in things that don’t matter so that we might devote our remaining days to things that do?” We appreciate so much your prayers, encouragement, and support as we devote our remaining days to those things that really do matter. Thanks for all you do for God’s servants! Keep on keeping on!

Joey Bacon

****The WBFJ NEWSLETTER primarily publishes news concerning our mission family****

****Be sure to read our OFFICE LETTER for the latest news concerning the operations at the mission office****