2016 August Newsletter

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Well, the summer is coming to a close – children getting their new school clothes, people in our town looking forward to the vacationers leaving, so that the traffic decreases and so do the lines in our grocery stores. We are spoiled!

After a very busy summer, between an unusual amount of consulting, and getting Ron to Las Cruces (2 ½ hours from home) for IV treatments to help diminish the effects of his Parkinson’s Disease, and getting some things done around the house that need doing (haven’t finished, but are we ever done?) and trying to get an adequate amount of rest, we both are looking forward to the crisper mornings and evenings, leaves turning colors, and the advent of winter squash and pumpkin pie. Thankfully, because our nurse daughter lives a couple of blocks from us, and because I am an old nurse, Ron is now having his IV’s here at home. That saves the long trip and the additional cost of having it done elsewhere. And by the way, if you know of someone who is suffering from cancer, regardless of the stage, Ron’s doctor in Las Cruces is world renowned for curing cancer with IV’s. Contact us if you want the more detailed information.

In actuality, Autumn is my very favorite time of year. The scenery becomes splendid with bright yellow and even a few orange trees. (nothing like New England’s beauty!) The apples ripen, and we do have a wonderful variety of them here in the NM mountains! I look forward to going to a local farmer and getting enough for applesauce and a few pies and Apple Crisp as well. While we will miss the berries that have been luscious and plentiful this year, we look forward to the fall and winter fruits as well. Come Thanksgiving, our friends will come from Arizona, and Donna and I will make pies and plan for a grand Thanksgiving feast and time together – the four of us! Our two daughters and their husbands live nearby, so we plan and make the holiday last...
as long as we can! Making memories and observing traditions are very special – just wish there was time for more of that!

Speaking of memories and traditions: Ron and I have been walking down memory lane quite a bit lately. A week ago, we celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary, and have used this time in our lives to recall the day we met, our first kiss, our wedding day and honeymoon, getting Ron through undergraduate school while having our two daughters at the same time, pastoral ministry in New England, Wyoming, Florida, North Dakota and being employed by and working with Faith For Today for ten years and then the three years with Jim and Ellen Foulke and Life Renewal Institute. Believe me, we would still be traveling and teaching seminars were it not for Parkinson’s Disease! This has been one of the most difficult aspects of Ron’s illness – not being able to do the work that God called us to do a long time ago, after our own emotional changes.

However, since Ron’s Parkinson’s, I have had a clot and two stents placed in my left coronary artery, shoulder surgery due to an accident caused by a fellow in a pickup truck who wanted to be where we were, and a fractured hip from a fall last January, in the ice and snow. Amazing, huh?

All of these health issues have caused us to have to slow down, study more, visit with each other and hopefully prepare for another book and/or addition to The Journey. Time will tell if this is God’s plan for our quieter days.

One of the things we have discovered is that the traumatic experiences we have endured in childhood, teen years and even since, sets us up for physical illness, from mild to life threatening. This is some of the material we are considering using in an addition to what we have presented in times past in Binding the Wounds and/or The Journey. At this point, we pray for the renewed health to continue research and to write again.

Believe it or not, folk who experienced work we did at least 10-15 years ago, have contacted us from Canada and England. Things are reviving in the United Kingdom, with a couple who will be doing some mini-seminars. We are thrilled! We would LOVE to hear from those of you who have benefited from Binding the Wounds or The Journey! We would like to know how recovery has benefited your life and the lives of those
Good morning (very early) .. there's clouds obscuring the usual pretty blue sky so I imagine it will remain humid today. I am thankful for the precious rain, but I get a bit down when there's too little sun for too long. I tend to become even more introspective .. which sometimes is good, sometimes not so ... in this case, my perception was expanded and I'm sharing these thoughts with you!

I have a 3" square plaque I bought last year close to our anniversary date that I keep at eye level on a shelf in the bathroom so it catches my eye often. It says "As long as we're TOGETHER, the rest will fall into place" and it has 3 small dark crimson hearts set in a jagged edged crevice connecting the right side with the words on it to the left side.

Before this morning I never got anything different from the saying which I interpreted meaning as long as Kenny and I are together (and "on the same page" hopefully) the rest that life throws at us can fall by the wayside and we will be okay.

This morning my brain went deeper and more generalized all at the same time, if that makes sense! Isn't it amazing how the brain works?

"As long as we're TOGETHER, the rest will fall into place" brought me to our omnipotent God and HE was the major component in "we." So of course, everything will fall into place with His hand in my life; I depend on that happening! But then I thought of those who don't know God or believe in His amazing Son, Jesus. Yet unknowingly they DO know Him; they DO have Him working in their lives. There's that "best friend" who seems to call or drop in when you're struggling, your sometimes cranky but capable spouse that you can depend on, or a complete stranger who shows up at just the right moment to get you through a crisis or accident when there's no apparent help around. Our "angels." These people and their impact on our lives are not accidental. We can look at all that is wrong or lacking in our lives, or we can become more aware of all we have to be thankful for..

Me? I'm taking notice much more now as things play out in my life and so thankful for His orchestration because no matter what it looks like to me it is just how it needs to be!

Grateful Donna