

Merry Christmas from The Beauchemins

December 2016



It's hard to believe that 2016 is almost over and we'll soon be entering a new year. This year has been one of blessings, challenges, happiness, joy, peace ... and the presidential election. It certainly has not been boring.

Since our August newsletter, Gerry has continued to be very busy modifying the dental training program. He'll tell you a bit more about that later. As for me, I continue to keep busy with the usual demands of everyday life and ministry responsibilities. I'm enjoying being a mentor with our local MOPS group and meeting with my ladies bible study group.

I've done a bit of traveling this fall. In late September I went to New Hampshire for 2 weeks. The main focus of that visit was to be with my family as we laid my Aunt Rachel's ashes to rest beside her husband and parents. Though it was sad it was nice to reconnect with family and friends I hadn't seen in quite some time.

In November I had my annual check-up at NIH in Bethesda, MD. Thankfully all is remaining stable with my blood counts and condition. I have been invited to participate in a new clinical trial. This drug has the potential of affecting the immune system's memory, reminding it that the bone marrow is part of itself and to stop attacking it. If it works as expected, it should function normally after taking the drug for just 3 months. So, I'm working out the details now and hoping to participate in late January. It is a random trial so I'm not sure that I will be part of the group that gets the drug. I would appreciate your prayers. Should I get the drug, there are side effects and also costs involved in getting very specific blood test done weekly and monthly. Some which can be quite expensive.

We have been enjoying spending time with Nicole's little Dora most weeks since they live just a little over an hour away and they also come to Brownsville most weekends. But soon they will be moving to San Antonio which is 5 hours away. We'll still get to see them fairly regularly since Paul is the regional manager for Pureline Nutrition and will be checking on the Brownsville store at least once a month. His family is here as well so more motivation to visit.

We celebrated Christmas early with Nicole, Paul and Dora as we will be celebrating Christmas in Colorado with Anna and Dave and their family. There's a price to pay to enjoy these grandchildren ... we have to leave our warm southern climate and brave the cold and snow of Colorado Springs. I'm sure the joy of being with them will warm our hearts. Brrrrr!!!

We are missing Renee, Azarja and their family very much. The communications with them has been very limited this year as their phone line and internet have been out for many months.

Please pray that all the technical difficulties can be worked out. Renee gets quite homesick when she's not able to talk with us and we miss Skyping with the kids. It's amazing how we've become spoiled by modern technology. Not like the old days when we waited for letters to arrive by snail mail.



Dental Training For Missions

As you know from recent letters, I've been researching quite extensively new advances in dentistry. I've talked to you much about Silver Nitrate Therapy (SNT)—an amazing and exciting advancement in treating tooth decay. It offers great promise for the developing world. These last months have been focused extensively on modifying our program to incorporate this new methodology. A major change has been adopting a 4-handed therapy system which radically changes how we do things. I discovered first hand in a field clinic in Mexico* that 4-handed therapy is indispensable to successful SNT. This transition involves both lab and field testing. Denise is assisting me in developing the 4-handed protocol.

I'm a perfectionist—I test and re-test ideas until I'm satisfied. This can take days on end at times. The more I revisit individual elements of our course, the more I see the need to modify them. My to-do list gets longer and longer. I've found myself getting stressed because of all the time this is taking. But my daily prayer walks have helped me. With your prayers and God's help, I'm confident we'll succeed.



Fabricating our light, cheap and portable tray tables.



Preparing our silver nitrate solution bottles

I'm glad to say I've finalized our medical evaluation notes with Dr. Nyla Gordon's help. She's a local dentist who truly believes in us. Also, Dr. Mike Bottrell, from Wisconsin, has assured me, in detail, why it is best to not include scaling (cleaning teeth) in our program. This has taken a big weight off my shoulders. There is much more I could share. If you would like to know more, don't hesitate to call or email me.

*Because of the sensitive nature of clinical dentistry in this program, we cannot go into specifics here.

Hope For All

I'm continuing to make progress in finalizing my new book. I thank God for the encouragement I've received from those who have read the manuscript. Though it's only 1/3 the size of my first book, it's taking longer. That's because I'm trying to say much in fewer pages. Please pray God's continued blessing and guidance in this.

Wishing you a blessed New Year