

CORR Ministries

*Bruce & Liz Leary
Trustees*



June 13, 2020

Greetings Family and Friends,

This has been a year, hasn't it? As we posed for this picture at a New Year's Eve party with our church, we were coming out from under my broken leg adventure. **Liz took care of me** from June 2019 past the end of the year into March 2020. Little did we know that Liz was injured in our September 2019 car accident. She suffered multiple bacterial infections; each were treated with antibiotics which resulted in a very serious intestinal infection which Liz has been dealing with this entire year 2020. So, while the world was dealing with COVID-19, Liz was sick with her own infection. She finally got an appointment to see the doctor the end of May, he confirmed the injuries and she had surgery May 31, 2020 to repair the lower pelvic area at a Stanford hospital in Pleasanton, CA. We are home and **now I am caring for her**. Yes, I am a very bad nurse but she needs me and I am doing my best. Her recovery has been very painful; it is a helpless feeling for both of us. God has been incredible through the whole thing.

So many people around us have been suffering and hurting from the damage done by the lockdown. I must admit that God used this time of COVID-19 to help me focus on my family, my trust in God, and the burning passion that God has put within us for the men in prison. Some of the last class sessions we had in the prisons before the shutdown touched on the conflicts we face, the intense attacks of the devil, and the baggage we bring into our adulthood. We talked about our Dads one night. I shared that night (in March) that we never get over the dysfunctions of our childhood. Oh sure! God gives courage to face our weaknesses and strength to press forward, but, in my case, I still limp. I still feel angry sometimes for no apparent reason; I sometimes do not want to trust people; I sometimes do not need God's help with my tensions; certain evils from the past still shadow me; I struggle with the fear of failure; believe it or not, sometimes (even though I preach it), I do not feel valuable to God.

Those dear men in the prison limp through the same mine field. How do we help these guys? What can I say? Is moving ahead in life possible? Can God use my life with the failures, deception, and unfaithfulness of my past?

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Then came the COVID-19 lockdown. I needed to clean out the back barn. The barn is falling down; its full of wood, wood, wood, plus lots more wood. The black widows live in there too. It was hot and dusty and overwhelming. Day after day I would haul wood out of there and cut it up, cut it up, cut it up – until it got dark and I couldn't see anymore. I would stagger absolutely filthy and exhausted into the house. The next day I would come out to start again. I would think, "I got a lot done yesterday. I am making progress. I am really pleased about that. Thank you, Lord".

One afternoon I was on my knees next to these saw horses cutting wood when it hit me – These saw horses belonged to my father; he made them years ago; he gave them to me. Sure, they look pretty lame but those simple pieces of wood were used throughout my entire life. Dad is gone now but his anger, bad habits, physical abuse, and lack of communication skills (back then) did not weaken the usefulness of those saw horses as they helped me accomplish something on those dusty days. These men also need to kneel by the saw horses & give God thanks as they press on with their lives.



"Lord, You know Liz and I are eager to get back into the prisons. Thank you for the privilege. Encourage the chaplains and prison authorities who have been frustrated for having no prison programming. Keep the fire burning in the hungry hearts of the inmates. Richly protect our dear family & friends on the other end of this email. Keep us healthy and always on the look-out for lives to reach for You."

A final word: The various prisons are at different stages in the COVID-19 process. Some may open sooner than others or they may all open at some distant date later in this year. Pray God's focus for us as we study for up-coming classes, and as we create new materials for future class sessions. Also, pray that Prison Fellowship will successfully be able to stream Christian materials into the TV network of the many prisons throughout the country, and that the inmates will be informed of this TV network opportunity. Pray that any lessons and study materials can be quickly screen and approved to enter the prisons for the remainder of the lockdown.

Financial support should be sent to: MGF, PO Box 1535, Turlock, CA 95381 (Project 89).

We extend our love & gratitude to you.
Bruce & Liz

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