



the Gibsons

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We often hear the phrase “We may not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future.” As we think back over the ‘happenings’ of the month, we praise the Lord that truly He does hold the future in His hands. He is in control and we know we can safely go to him as a ‘refuge and strength in the time of trouble.’

Our month started out with the anticipation of being involved in a mission conference and later the same week were to head to Brownsville for the last of the Spring marriage retreats.

We always look forward to being in mission conferences and meeting new missionaries as they share their burdens for the field to which the Lord has called them. We were inspired and challenged as we listened to each missionary. It brought back memories of when our children were small and we prayed daily for missionaries around the world. We kept a globe handy so we could show where that missionary was serving or where they were headed. It seems that sometimes we get myopia (nearsightedness) as we get so taken up with where we are or as for us, where we are serving, that our vision for foreign missions is dimmed. As we listened to the missionaries present their ‘fields’ we were convicted of our need to keep our eyes focused on the needs worldwide. It is sad that many areas are closing their doors to missionaries—areas like China, Russia, India. We praise the Lord that the Word tells us that the Lord will not leave the people without a witness. With that promise, we can trust the ministering of the Holy Spirit to continue to work in hearts and lives and draw people to Himself. It is a joy for us as we daily pray for many missionaries and ministries around the world.

The last night of the mission conference while Duane was preaching, he fainted. Paramedics came and checked him—giving him an EKG. This showed there is a possibility of a partial blockage. Duane has now been under doctor’s care and has already had several different tests. We should receive the results on April 30. He continues weak and is very ready for answers to what is going on. Please **be in prayer for him** and that the doctor can find exactly what is going on.

Because of Duane’s health situation, we cancelled out our portion of the marriage retreat. There were only two couples that were able to attend, but we know that God used the retreat for His glory. **Pray** that God continues to use the retreat as the couples have now returned to their respective areas.

We continue to receive such encouraging letters from the correspondence students. What excites us is that we hear every now and then of prisoners that are taking the lessons to teach to other inmates. This is such a blessing. It is truly a prime example of II Timothy 2:2, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” **Pray** for the many prisoners that are studying God’s Word through the Bible correspondence courses. One prisoner writes:

“I send you my sincerest thanks for accepting me as a student in your Bible institute. Thank you also, so much, for sending me the first book in the series of lessons. I have been so encouraged by these lessons and I anxiously awaiting my next lesson.”

Please be praying for wisdom and strength as we will soon be distributing this year’s Vacation Bible School materials on the theme of Abraham, the Friend of God.

On May 3-5, our son and family will be traveling the 1,000 miles from Southern Mexico to the States for a mini-furlough. **Please be praying** for safety for them as they travel North and then as they will travel over 7,000 miles this summer.

Thank you so very much for your faithfulness in praying and supporting this ministry. We count each one of you as co-laborers in what God has called us to do. May God continue to bless and use each of you for His glory in 2018.

Serving together with you for His grace and glory,

Duane and Marilyn

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“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry...” (Ephesians 4:11)