



## Of Human Frailty and Divine Faithfulness

When we are hard pressed, His grace is still sufficient.

Bob & Hope Carter - December, 2024

7946 Carberry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46214 - Mobile: (317) 828-6329 (Bob) or (317) 443-7485 (Hope)

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We started drafting this update last Friday in the surgery waiting room at Methodist Hospital in downtown Indianapolis. Bob's father, Wayne, was undergoing surgery to remove a section of large intestine that had a walnut-sized cancer that appeared to be localized (not spread). We are glad to report that the surgery went well, and he expects to be sent home soon if no complications develop.

You ask: didn't he recently have a kidney removed because of cancer? Yes, and that cancer was also caught before it had spread. The doctor says that for a 95-year-old gentleman with a recent heart valve replacement, a stroke with no residual deficit, kidney cancer, intestinal bleeding, shingles, and now colon cancer, he is "remarkably healthy"!! He's tough, that's for sure. Just like the Eveready Bunny, he just keeps on going.

Meanwhile, Bob's stepmother Kay is making slow progress in a rehab facility after falling and breaking her other hip and getting hip replacement surgery. Now she has "a matching pair".

Several of our prayer partners have been asking us, "How are **you** doing?" Good question. It has been a very intense and chaotic time for us, but the Lord has sustained and strengthened us and has consistently guided our decision-making. He has given us strength and has proven His faithfulness to us repeatedly.

Here is a quick rundown of the last several weeks as we now – hopefully – plan our return to Kenya by the end of this month:

- Nov. 2 to 18: we visited North Carolina churches and individuals who have been partnering with us in ministry for many years. God blessed these travels with safety and many "God moments".



Bob was blessed to join the worship band with a borrowed violin when we visited Cane Creek Baptist Church on Nov. 3 in Hillsborough, NC.

- During this time, we also both completed the Joni and Friends "Beyond Suffering" Instructors' Course. We are now certified to teach the course and to use its course materials – which is especially good since we are planning to launch a new course on disability ministry at Moffat Bible College next month!
- Nov. 19: Hope flew to Dallas to help Nathan and his family while he navigated another KLS episode, and Bob remained home to accompany his father to his medical appointments. Fortunately, this KLS episode was much briefer than Nathan's previous episodes, lasting only about 2 weeks. We attribute the brevity of this episode to the medications he has been taking, so this is a hopeful sign that the treatment is working. He came out of this most recent episode soon after Hope's arrival and remains symptom-free to date. Meanwhile, Hope enjoyed time with the family and especially all the snuggles from the grandkids, and returned a week later.

- It was good that Bob remained behind, because Kay's fall and broken hip happened only two days after Hope flew to Dallas. We are thankful that Bob was there to assist Kay and Wayne throughout her hospital stay. She was still in the hospital over Thanksgiving and the following weekend, but we were able to enjoy late Thanksgiving gatherings with Bob's brother's family on Friday and our Indiana-based kids and grandkids on Saturday. We were finally able to get Kay transferred to a rehab facility on Tuesday, Dec. 3.
- Dec. 4: We accompanied a small team to Belize on a week-long pastoral visit to Belize Friends Center on the southside of Belize City. It was a good opportunity to get greater insight into the work there, to encourage and pray with the missionaries and staff, and to gather helpful information for future strategic planning. It was also good to be away from cold weather for a while! We returned home on Dec. 10.

Clifton Major (photo: center) is the Belizean police officer that Bob's father is helping to sponsor for his online studies at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya in preparation for going into pastoral ministry.



Meanwhile, we are delighted to report that your prayers and our prayers for Nathan's employment have been answered. He has accepted a job offer to work with a new startup company that is developing a novel way to move air freight. He seems to be really enjoying the challenge so far and feels that his unique combination of training and experience have prepared him well for making a valuable contribution to this new venture.

### **Now What?**

Besides the disability course, which Hope is taking primary responsibility for, we will also be launching a new course next month on community health for pastors and Christian community leaders. Bob is developing that course. We are far behind where we wanted to be by now, but with God's help in response to your prayers, we expect to be able to open both courses by the first week of January. We are planning to arrive in Kenya by Dec. 31. Please pray that nothing else will come up that could prevent us from being able or ready to travel by then. There are still a few tasks that must be completed before we get final travel approval from SIM.

### **Please Pray for:**

- Bob's father and stepmother as they recover from their respective surgeries and seek to regain their strength and health.
- Nathan's KLS to remain quiescent for a good long time as he adjusts to the challenges of his new job.
- No new issues that might prevent or delay our return to Kenya as scheduled.
- Our ability to launch the two new courses at Moffat in just three more weeks.
- God's provision of adequate support both for us as missionaries, and for the Community Health and Development project, which we oversee.

**Contributions** towards our support may be sent by check to: **SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273**. Make the check out to SIM-USA and indicate its purpose on the "memo" line:

Bob & Hope Carter (#09892)

Moffat Community Health and Development project (#KE 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by online donation at [www.simusa.org/get-involved/give](http://www.simusa.org/get-involved/give).

- Our SIM missionary number is **09892**.
- Our SIM project account is **92163** - "Moffat Community Health and Development".

***Thank you!***