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Christmas 2018

Immanuel - God Is with Us

Dear family and friends -

Even though this has not been an easy year, God has been and is with us.

The 22nd Colorado and 35th Greater Philly Christian Writers Conferences (known as the "Write His Answer" conferences) were more challenging than usual. A week before leaving to direct the Colorado conference in May Microsoft Outlook crashed. Six hours with MS techs did not resolve the problem. My incredibly gifted nephew worked on my laptop all week-end but was not able to recover MIA emails in my conference folders. What's so strange is that emails in hundreds of other folders were not deleted - only *four years* of conference emails disappeared. The stress landed me in the hospital for a day with symptoms of a heart attack. Thank the Lord it was *only* stress and not a heart attack.

While I really do not see demons behind every glitch, it is obvious the evil one has targeted these conferences that aim to "encourage and equip Christians to write about a God who is real, who is reachable, and who changes lives." Planning the 2019 conferences (Colorado is May 15-18 and Philly is August 8-10) won't be easy with my folders of prospective faculty empty, but then Jesus never promised it would be easy to follow Him. He has, however, promised to always be with us.

I've hung on to His promise in a new way since September 30 when Paul tripped over the curb going into church. He broke his knee cap, tibia, and elbow. After two days in the hospital, he spent three weeks in a rehab. He wasn't eating or drinking and was getting weaker. I'm so grateful Father led me to send him back to the hospital. Turns out he had blood clots in both lungs and went into aFib. I slept on the couch in his room three nights and brought him home on the fifth day. I'm praising God that his leg and elbow are healing and he got a good report from the cardiologist and oncologist. There were also "white fuzzies" in his chest that I was told by the lung doctor were "very suspicious." He felt Paul had advanced cancer. I clung to the Lord and our oncologist's reassurance that he felt they would resolve. And they did! But meanwhile, Paul is still unable to eat. He has tummy pain, nausea, bloating, and is spitting up or vomiting almost every day. The result? He has lost 33 pounds since August 27. The endoscopy he had this Wednesday did not provide any answers. I am very concerned.

I'm so thankful that we don't have to walk through these challenges alone. I have felt the prayers of family and friends and deeply appreciate all the practical ways they have come alongside to help. And I have no doubt God is with us and will work all things together for good. He will do the same for you. He knows. He cares. "Since he [Jesus] has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested" (Heb. 2:18 NLT).

The past twelve weeks I've not accomplished much beyond caring for Paul than updating and republishing the book I wrote 35 years ago. It took five years to find a publisher because back then we didn't talk about incest and sexual abuse. *#MyFamilyToo! - How Our Family Coped with Childhood Sexual Abuse* is the story of God's faithfulness during the five years we sought to help my half-sister overcome her father's abuse. It is also our testimony of how God helped us to "Live His Answer" in the midst of other challenges that could have destroyed our faith. It's available on Amazon or can be ordered through my website - <https://www.writehisanswer.com/bookstore/>.

Have a blessed Christmas because He came and is coming again - *Marlene & Paul*

