

I want to share a personal testimony which I hope will encourage you to continue to release God through prayer to have His will and way in your situations. This testimony concerns my youngest brother, Steven, who is 64, and my mother, who is 97. Steven is in a VA nursing home facility in Texas, having been diagnosed in 2016 as suffering from dementia. His wife, Jeanette, was trying to figure out what was wrong with him and why he had become so different over the previous ten years. Steven didn't realize there was anything wrong. His family, however, was barely surviving ten years of extreme dysfunction which included his loss of employment four times in the previous 18 months, loss of 90% of their normal family income, and separation from his wife and children for the past two years. Furthermore, he was in the process of building a smaller home for his wife and children as they contemplated divorce.

The neurologist said that Steven is suffering from FTD "Frontotemporal **D**ementia." At that time, Jeanette remembers thinking, "at least it is not Alzheimer's." From that moment on, Jeanette began to study what FTD meant and how it would further affect her family and the children who had already been traumatized by a father they could no longer stand to be around. The diagnosis in Jeanette's own words, "explained why such a hard-working, good-hearted man lost his executive functioning skills, couldn't think things through, said and did inappropriate and hurtful things to those he loved the most, and had years of sudden emotional outbursts all the while losing the connection between his own brain and heart..."

"With dementia there is no cure, no getting better. For FTD there is no treatment, no manual to follow, no specialists to turn to, no one to turn to other than God for strength...Many who are afflicted with FTD are housed in prisons, homeless shelters, and other hopeless situations and they are shunned for their unexpected, unexplained, and undesirable behaviors and decisions. Sadly, most of them don't understand what is going on and perceive that the rest of the world and those around them are the problem." This is my brother Steven; he is no longer the man I knew and still love. Jeanette has done her best to help her children,

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both now attending college, better understand why their father became a different person. Jeanette makes an hour and a half drive each way four times a week to care for Steven. At this stage, he has no bowel control and is unable to say her name. We don't know if he knows but simply cannot say it or if the memory is lost. He does not speak in complete sentences, and if he answers it is with a nod or "uh huh." He can still walk and on the outside appears to be healthy, but his brain is shrinking away each day until his body is no longer able to function at all. The person who faces the responsibility of caring for such an individual as my sister-in-law does is, in my thinking, great evidence of God's love working through one of His special servants.

With this background, you can understand why I was hesitant when my mother said she wanted to travel to Texas to see Steven. Many months had passed since Steven had voiced Jeanette's name and I feared he would not recognize his own mother. Steven was not the son that she had seen three years earlier prior to Covid. Both Jeanette and my brother, Bill, who also lives in Texas and visits Steven frequently, were likewise concerned. Finally, we decided that mom had every right to see her son, knowing it may well be the last chance for her to do so due to her age and Steven's condition. We flew to San Antonio and spent the night in a hotel near the facility where Steven lives. Jeanette arrived early the next morning at the facility and called to let us know that it appeared to be a good day for Steven and that we should all come over. Bill and his wife made the four-and-ahalf-hour drive to be with us and together we drove the short distance to see Steven and Jeanette.

When we arrived, I wheeled mom into the room past his roommate to Steven's side with the window. I pushed her wheelchair up to the bed where Steven was sitting upright against the headboard. He looked at mom for a few seconds as if to study her and then said, "**MOM**, **MOM**." It still brings tears to my eyes as that one moment was an answer to much prayer. For those few moments, there was a connection inside Steven's head that superseded his natural ability. Mom was elated, to say the least. Steven went on to say, "Mom" yet a third time. He did not make the connection with Bill, Norma, Jeanette, or me; but we didn't care because the purpose of the trip was for mom.

The next day was also a good day. We took Steve to a Chinese buffet, his favorite. Steven was sitting across from Jeanette who was helping him with his plate and food. She asked him, "Steve, are you done with this?" To our amazement, he answered, "Yes, I'm done with it." WOW! A complete sentence! Jeanette could not remember the last time he was able to say a complete sentence. I have been praying a long time for a miracle for Steven and his family. I will continue to pray, having seen and heard two miracles that encourage me to continue in faith believing. What are you believing God to do that involves a miracle? Let me encourage you to stand in faith and release God to have His way in your situation—**He is the miracle working God! Release God to work His miracle!**

THE LORD WILLING—WE MOVED!

I am writing this newsletter on Tuesday, October 4th, from Indiana where I am attending a pastors' conference. I'm flying home tomorrow evening to finish up some things and to pack. On Friday, I fly to Botswana, Africa, to start a new CTC program.

We have already sold our present home and purchased a new location about tweleve miles east of where we are now. It is a little larger than our present home and has a room designated as an office/den. We were able to get the home for a price that will allow for remodeling. When we finish, we will have a larger room for Sarah, a play area for Daniel/extra bedroom, and a storage closet! Vicky wants to redo the kitchen to a more updated open concept which I agreed to do. We'll replace the kitchen cabinets and I'll move the old ones into the garage for storage.

We will close on both homes the same day, October 26th, and will have seven days to be out of our present home. (Things have changed. Today is Oct. 15, I'm in South Africa and due home at noon on the 17th. We learned on the 12th that we were supposed to close on our house the 13th. Something went very wrong, and now we are to close on both by the 18th, move on the 18th and be out by the 19th. We started packing a week before I left and Vicky continues without me. On top of that Daniel has been very sick and Vicky had to take him to the ER. He is now doing better, PTL! We have boxes everywhere and last night from here I hired a moving company to move us. The enemy is alive

and well, but so is our God and HE is still our provision and will make a way through all of this chaos.) We plan to begin remodeling as soon as possible. It will be a work in progress on into January when we receive the new cabinets. During this time, I will be needed at home and most likely will not travel again until after January. There is still much to report in the December newsletter. January's letter, as always, will be a review of this year.



WE'RE GROWING!

God is doing many new things and adding to us as we continue to move forward making a difference for His Kingdom. A good friend, former pastor, author, and minister of the gospel **Rev. Rod Buzzard**,

and his wife Kathleen, are joining with us. I recently met with Pastor Rod who asked if I would be interested in them helping us train more pastors. Naturally, I was blessed to hear that someone else was wanting to share the constantly increasing work responsibility. Pastor Rod indicated that he hoped to come alongside a CTC graduate who might need help building a church and who would then start a new CTC location in the building. We agreed that this was of the Lord and would be a blessing to the Kingdom. Since then, I have been wait-

ing for God to present an opportunity that would match Pastor Rod's desire. Just yesterday, I was confronted with two new needs for church buildings in Malawi. One was with a graduate, Pastor Howard Phaiya, who had gone into the bush in southern Malawi to an unreached people group and planted a church in a grass hut. It is now flourishing, and they need a building. Pastor Rod and Kathleen are excited!



Please make note of our new address: 3503 Chessington Drive, Land O Lakes, FL 34638-7947. We also <u>may</u> have a new land line phone number soon. My cell will remain in tact 727-459-9534. Remember, RevC support can be sent to MVI or this new address. Project support should be sent to our PO Box address (see the box below) <u>or</u> this new address marked with the project you wish to support on the memo line.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that keep us moving forward. Believing for miracles every day for you and for the work God has called us to. **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! To support RevC or a particular project you can either donate online at www.revc.org by clicking the "RevC Support" button or the "Project Support" button, or send your gift to Indigenous Training Ministries, Inc. (ITM, Inc.) and mail to P.O. Box 958 Oldsmar, FL 34677 and put "Preference Project Support" or "Preference RevC" on the memo line. The IRS does not allow donors to designate a gift, but you can indicate your "preference" for its use. Questions?? contact RevC at: <u>RevC@revc.org</u> BLESSINGS!!!

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