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'Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think'. Ephesians 3:20

Happy New Year! We trust God that this is going to be a good year. Just think what God could accomplish through us if we keep our focus on Him and what He wants us to do every day? We live in such a high-tech, fast paced world that I believe we miss a lot of opportunities to minister each day because we get too busy with things that really don't matter in the end.

November 25 was a special day for us. On November 25, 1992 I drove to Joliet, IL to pick Larry up at the prison. He had to wear an ankle monitor for a few months, but we were thankful that he was home. And not long after coming home, God provided a good job for him although at the time I'm sure we didn't think much about God's provision. We have come a long way in twenty-seven years.

On December 4, Larry and our brother in Christ Gary Wise went to McKee Foods in Gentry, AR to pick up Little Debbies for all the Arkansas prisons. Larry told them we would need 18,500 Little Debbies and they said they would do their best to provide that. Praise God, they blessed us with more than enough to meet the need. Larry and Gary were concerned they might not get everything loaded in our 14' enclosed trailer but they did. Larry said he kept telling Gary to think about Jesus and the loaves and fishes as they were loading the trailer! Their next concern was that the load would be too heavy for the trailer. They unloaded what they needed to in Little Rock and Larry started the trip back home. He stopped at a rest area outside Malvern, AR (about 70 miles from home) and noticed one of the trailer wheels was hot and smoking. He called Gary and he came to the rescue. They went to Auto Zone, bought wheel bearings and fixed the problem. While they were at the rest area, Larry talked to a man from Knoxville, TN. He told Larry he had been in an accident on a moped and was left for dead. Some paramedics found him and took him to the hospital. Larry asked him if he was saved. He said he knew who God was but had never made a commitment. We believe this was a divine appointment. Larry made it home about 11PM. It was a long day since he left our house at 1:30AM.

On December 6, Larry had the opportunity to visit the men at the Maximum Security Unit at Tucker, AR when he dropped off their Little Debbies. He hadn't been to that unit in a long time and the men were happy to see him. On December 7, Larry and I and Gary Wise went to a Christmas party in Little Rock that was hosted by Bobby and Betty Holyfield who also do prison ministry. There were some men there who remembered Larry visiting them in prison. I talked to a couple women who were cancer survivors and we gave away some 'Cancer Be Gone in Jesus Name' books. Some of the ex-prisoners gave their testimonies. One of them said something that stuck in my mind. He said, 'a Bible in your hand isn't worth much; a Bible in your heart can change the world'. On December 11, Larry went to the Tucker Unit for the 50th anniversary of the dedication of their chapel. On December 19, I went with Larry to Tucker Unit to help with the Christmas sack give away. They had an assembly line set up in the gym and each prisoner went through the line and filled their laundry bag with goodies. We had the chance to talk to several of the men that day, many of them who had been praying for me. It was a good day!

We are thankful for everyone who helped with our Christmas Behind Bars outreach. Whether you sent a donation, bought socks or soap, know that you are appreciated, and we couldn't have done it without you! We supported six prisons this year; Tucker Unit in Tucker, AR; Omega House in Malvern, AR; Delta Unit in Dermott, AR; Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance in Texarkana, AR; ALETA in Camden, AR and Hempstead County Jail in Hope. The socks and soap that we had were given to the men at ALETA, Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance and the 309s at the jail. We also bought Ramen noodles, Starlite mints, peanut butter crackers and hot cocoa. We also gave three Christmas cards to each man at ALETA and Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance.

On December 14, Larry and I met Heavy and Alice Pennington at ALETA to give the men their Christmas sacks. They have a lot more freedom at this unit than many of the men have but they were very thankful for the sacks. The officer that was working mentioned that his wife has stage three ovarian cancer. We spent some time talking to him and gave him one of the 'Cancer Be Gone' books to take to her. On December 20, Larry and I went to the Hempstead County Jail. There were nine women in the pod and some of them were on lock down but those who weren't gathered around, and I prayed for them. When I asked what we should pray for, most of them said for peace. I had given them a sheet of paper with several verses on it but my favorite about peace wasn't on it and I couldn't remember exactly where it was in Isaiah. I asked for a Bible, opened it up to Isaiah and someone had already put a star next to Isaiah 26:3. One of the women next to me said 'God is speaking through you'. It was a blessing for me to pray with them. The next morning, we went to Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance to hand out their sacks. They have gone through some changes again and we had been told we would be able to give the sacks to the men like we used to do but when we got there, that didn't happen. We were disappointed but the main thing is the men got the sacks and hopefully realize that God knows where they are and what they are going through. We had planned to leave after this to go to Illinois for Christmas. Larry was sick and felt it was best to stay home but he insisted that I go so I did. As I was making the seven-hour drive, I was reminded of Christmases in the past when he was in prison and I went to my dad's. I enjoyed the time with my sister and her family and had the opportunity to visit other family and friends in the area.

On January 1, we drove to Mulberry, AR to pick up a car that was donated to the ministry by Royce, a man Larry ministered to in prison. Royce wanted Larry to have this car to drive to the prisons. The ironic thing about this is the vehicle is a police car. It is a black and white 2009 Ford Crown Victoria that was used by the Van Buren Arkansas police department. It is a nice car and gets good gas mileage. We thought about having a sign made for the front doors that says 'on a mission for God' since the car reminds us of the Blue Brothers movie, and we are on a mission for God!

As we begin another year of ministry, we want you to know how much we appreciate your prayers and financial support. We are beginning to make plans for this new year. Larry plans to continue to minister at the Tucker Unit and any other prison or jail that God opens the doors to. We are thankful for our brother-in-Christ Darryl Fox who continues to minister at Southwest Arkansas Community Correction in Texarkana, AR each week. We hope that we can attend more motorcycle rallies this year. I had a follow-up visit with my oncologist on January 7. He told me that everything looks good praise God. I will see him again the end of March. We are thankful for your prayers and trust God that I will continue to get good reports. It is not too early to think about collecting white men's socks and bars of soap. It would be great to have some churches to help with this. And finally, please remember to pray for President Trump and our country every day.

Love and Peace,

Larry and Kathy