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'Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again – my Savior and my God!' Psalm 42:11

If you are wondering what happened to our May newsletter, here it is! I hope you will understand why it is late after you read about how the month of May was at our house. We had planned to attend some rallies in May but we didn't get to do that. Larry had an appointment with his urologist on April 12 and found out he had kidney stones again. He had lithotripsy done and a stent put in on April 19. Lithotripsy is a non-invasive procedure that uses shock waves to break up the stones. On May 3, he had a ureteroscopy done where they go in with a lighted tube and use a basket device to remove the stones. This was a more serious procedure than lithotripsy but it had to be done. The doctor put another stent in which is supposed to make it easier for any stones left to pass. He had that stent taken out on May 5. Larry didn't feel well at all the following day but wasn't running a high-grade fever or having any symptoms they told us to watch for that could mean he had an infection. Early Sunday morning May 7, we made the fastest trip we have ever made to Texarkana, TX. After running some tests in the emergency room at St. Michael's Hospital, he was admitted with a urinary tract infection. A few hours later, the urologist on call did surgery to put stents in both kidneys so they would drain properly. He said some of the stone fragments were causing blockage. They started IV antibiotics and fluids and two days later the doctor told us the infection was also in his blood. They did another culture and the doctor assured us the antibiotics he was on would clear up the infections. He was released from the hospital Friday evening May 12. Monday, May 15 he went back for outpatient surgery to remove the stents. The urologist also removed more fragments from his kidneys. He had a follow-up appointment on May 25. He still has some small fragments in his left kidney that should pass without any problem. The calf of his left leg had been hurting so the urologist set him up for a Doppler ultrasound on May 30 to check for a blood clot. The ultrasound revealed a blood clot so they sent him to our family doctor to see how he wanted to treat this. Larry has been on a blood thinner for one week and will go back to the doctor on June 8 for a follow-up.

Yes, May was a stressful month for us. We are trusting God will heal Larry and that we can get back to normal very soon. He has been drinking a lot more water and gave up salt which is a big deal for someone who likes to tell people he salts Frosted Flakes! Seriously, he used to salt everything before he tasted it so this was a step in the right direction. The stones were analyzed and the urologist told him to avoid tea, cola and chocolate which he had been doing anyway. Larry asked me to bring him a supply of cross pennies, earrings and patriotic cross pins so he could hand them out while he was in the hospital. We are thankful for our church family and friends that visited, called or sat with me all those times in the surgery waiting area. One time when I was in the waiting area, I struck up a conversation with a lady who was waiting on her dad to get out of surgery. It turned out that we knew her dad and used to attend the same church.

During April, Larry spent four days ministering at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR. We went to Benton, AR one evening to eat supper with our brother Gary Wise and his parents. As we were leaving the restaurant, a man approached Gary and Larry and said he had been in prison

and remembered both of them. A few weeks later, Gary's father passed away. Larry, Darryl and I went to visitation and Larry and Darryl also attended his memorial service.

We also went to the rodeo at the Angola Prison in Angola, LA the weekend of April 21. My Motor Maid group had planned this since early last year and we didn't want to miss it. We got there Friday afternoon and ate supper at The Magnolia Café in St. Francisville, LA that evening. The place was packed but our waitress took good care of us. Larry gave her a cross penny and told her to put it on her key ring and thank God for going with her and keeping her safe. She said she just got a new car and had a new key ring. She took her key ring out of her pocket and put the penny on it. Saturday morning, we went with the group to the prison in Angola. The rodeo didn't start until 2PM so we had a few hours to walk around and look at the crafts the prisoners had for sale. When we got to the entrance to the fair, it was like going into a big flea market. There were food vendors set up and then aisles and aisles of crafts. There was leather work, paintings, wood crafts, and furniture. We talked to some of the men and told them about our ministry. The rodeo was exciting to watch. The participants for the most part were prisoners although they did have some ladies that did barrel racing and a few other outsiders that were part of the rodeo. We enjoyed meeting more of the Motor Maid group and their husbands. Angola Prison did away with their paid chaplains several years ago so the inmates are the ones who take care of all the religious services and chapel activities.

Larry spent two days at the prison in Malvern during May. The men have missed him and even sent him a couple get well cards. A couple men that we have been writing to for a long time sent Mother's Day cards to me that they made. They were beautiful and brightened my day. I never thought about it that way but I guess in some ways I am like a mother to some of these men.

We had a rodeo/revival at the Delta Unit in Dermott, AR this past weekend. We used to have two rodeo/revivals at this unit every year but we haven't been there for six years. I'll write more about it in our next newsletter but we had an awesome weekend there. God heard all the prayers for good weather on Saturday so we could spend time out on the yard with the men. Some people think when we go to the prison that we have a captive audience. That isn't true because the men aren't forced to attend the chapel services or go to yard call. Even when we visit the barracks, we can't force them to talk to us. I am reminded of a young man we met at the Delta Unit at one of our first rodeo/revivals. His nickname was 'Pollock'. Our team members invited him to church but he didn't seem real interested. I think we were all a little surprised when he came to the service that evening. Once he understood that we cared about him, he came to every service any time we were at the unit. He wrote to us faithfully and contacted us a couple times after he went home. These men must see Jesus in us. We can't just go through the motions while we are there. They can see right through that. Many of them are already saved and just need to be encouraged. We are blessed that we can take ex-offenders to some of the units with us. Who better to encourage these men than someone who was right where they are a couple years ago? It gives them hope and something to look forward to when they hear other men tell how God has blessed them with a job or restored family relationships.

We have some rallies coming up in June and plan to go to Peoria, IL in July for the Motor Maids Convention. We appreciate your support and prayers. Please pray for Larry as he continues to heal and get back on his regular schedule. He has had kidney stones in the past but this has been the worst time he has ever had. We know others in the ministry who are having health problems too. The devil knows his time is short so he is doing whatever he can to try to stop those who are sharing the Gospel. But, we have read the end of The Book and we know we will win, amen!

Blessings,

Larry & Kathy