

News from Mary:

As I sit by the bedside of my dad, he faintly whispers, "The Lord is good..." he pauses and takes another breath and speaking over his ventilator continues, "a strong hold in the day of trouble." Over and over, all through the night, he repeats this verse from Nahum 1:7. His hope is in Christ! It has been a challenging journey for all of our family. My dad's stage 4 cancer has spread to his neck and throat, which required a vertebrae decompression surgery and rods placed in his neck. After the surgery, we were told a tumor in his throat was blocking his airway, so a tracheotomy and a feeding tube were necessary. Dad has had some very close calls, yet the Lord gave us mercy. He is now in a rehab hospital, working to get his strength back after 3 weeks in bed and in intensive care. We don't know what the future holds, but we know that dad's time is in the Lord's hands. Our prayer is that he can regain some of his strength and mental clarity. We covet your prayers for dad and our entire family.

My sister, Ruth Ann, has also moved to Michigan to be with the family during this journey. My brother, Jonathan, is working hard at getting her accepted into the Michigan foster care system so she can move to a group home. The Earnharts and Brewers need your prayers! Norm and I will head back to Albania October 18, and then we will need to travel to Greece to get my missed Botox treatment for migraines.

We are so thankful for Fredi and Lejla Sufa and Thomas and Lorinda Fleming, who are continuing all the services and programs at the church. We hear from the group often on our church WhatsApp chat! We feel a bit like fish out of water living between two worlds! Please keep our precious church family in your prayers. Thank you for your notes, emails, messages and cards. Your prayers have been such a source of strength for us!

My brother's address is:

**Jonathan Earnhart
5484 Wakefield Rd
Grand Blanc MI 48439**

News from Norman:

Abba Father

When my father in law's outlook was looking very grave after surgery, I was feeling emotionally overwhelmed at the prospect of not having anyone on earth to call "*dad*" anymore. In the back of my mind, I knew, of course, that God is *still* my *Heavenly* Father. It is interesting that of the three times that "Abba" is used in the Bible, it is always followed by "Father." In Galatians 4:6, the distinction is made that the "*Spirit of His Son*" is the one crying in our hearts "*Abba, Father.*" I was crying that I would soon have no one to call Dad, but the Holy Spirit was crying within my heart that I have, and *always will have* a Father! The greatest news is that *all* those who are His children also hear this cry within their hearts.

Church Camp

This year we were blessed to have camp in the neighboring country of Montenegro. With the beautiful backdrop of the Bay of Kotor, we were able to meet together as a church family in the

biblical region of Dalmatia. It was exciting to walk on the cobblestone streets of the medieval towns of Kotor and Herceg Novi, and imagine how people used to live in such places long ago.

As is almost always the case, one of the most challenging parts of camp seems to be just getting there! Just hours from our destination, a camper received a call that he must immediately return to Albania. When one of our drivers willingly returned him to Albania for university documents, I came to realize that it was a fitting example of self-sacrifice and exemplified the theme for the week, *Living the Crucified Life*. When they did arrive at camp much later that night they were very tired, having gone through the border crossing... three times!

During our small group sessions at camp, we met together and discussed questions about Bible lessons and verses of the week. It was interesting to observe that the examples given of denying self were exactly what most people strive to avoid, yet were what Christ said is necessary to come after Him! (Luke 14:27). Please continue to pray that the campers will take the challenges from God's Word and grow in the likeness of Christ.

PO Box 2149
Decatur, AL 35602-2149

P: 256.353.2221
F: 256.353.2266

nbrewer@baptistworldmission.org
www.baptistworldmission.org