

Thank so much for your *especially* appreciated support for us!

It has been a bit more challenging lately. In mid-November I (Dennis) had to make an emergency trip back to Illinois to see my birth mother. We had a couple days of very good visits in the hospital. I returned to Denver thinking she was getting better. However, she died two days later. I preached her funeral the day before Thanksgiving. Our sons, Joel and Jason, were able to attend and help. But Shelley and Karisa had to stay in Denver because Shelley was the middle of a series of surgical procedures and injections on her back and knee. Thanksgiving Day our sons and I got to visit with my adoptive dad. (I was adopted and raised by Uncle Bud and Aunt Mary. Mary died in early 2014.) A couple days after Thanksgiving Uncle Bud fell and broke his hip. There was a complication from the surgery and he died Dec. 7th. The day before he died, Karisa went back to pray with him, read the Bible, and sing to him. As she was flying back to Denver, I was flying to Illinois to do his funeral. Our son Jason, who lives in Texas, was able to come and help with the funeral, while Karisa was able to stay with Shelley and assist her after her fifth surgery/procedure.

We are so thankful that the Lord was with us "Big Time" through all of this. The support of our Illinois family and the church we grew up in was great. And we very much appreciated our church here for all of their love during these months. Please pray for our church: for Gerry whose wife passed in October; for Simon who has special and his dad just passed; for the two men who are facing surgeries; for the single moms who are in Transitional Housing; for the four men who are in half-way houses; for the family that is trying to reunite; for the single mom who started a career and is doing nicely; for the lady who recently gave her life to Christ. By the way, it is wonderful how well our church has done in recent months!

The Christmas Season was not easy, but it was special. One of the things that we were able to do was get gifts for about 50 kids here. Another highlight was the visit from Jason and his family, beginning on Christmas Eve. He did a nice job covering the preaching for me that Sunday after Christmas, too.

Shelley's back and knee issues are improving (enough that she and Karisa were able to travel to visit her mother for her 90th birthday on Feb. 1st!) Her upper back problems due to the car accident are just about healed up. And her knee is much better. However, her lower back issues have "a ways to go." We also have "a ways to go" to sort through the insurance and medical bills for her and for my birth mom.

We do pray for you! In Jesus' Name,

Dennis and Shelley