

End of summer note from Dick and Vi

Dear Friends and Family,

Well, where do we start? We spent most of last winter in Hereford, AZ working at Huachuca Oaks Camp doing many electrical upgrades and assisting with the installation of a new walk-in freezer and cooler for their kitchen. We also helped complete a washroom outside of the kitchen.



We left camp April 5th for Gilbert to take care of a few things and then made a short trip to Colorado to visit a couple of churches and many friends and supporters as possible in the limited time. We returned to Arizona and Dick spent a very hot 103+ degree week helping our son Terry move a large storage shed. During that time we also had some warranty work done on our trailer. On May 24th we left our trailer at Dick's sister in the Phoenix area and once again headed east with a load of items accumulated over seven years of ministry in Arizona.

We finally arrived back home on June 6th after spending a few days at our son Tim's home in Oklahoma. We began unloading, unpacking and getting our home and yard back in shape after the long absence. While unloading the truck, Dick's right knee began to hurt and swell and he was forced off of it for several days. We went to see the surgeon that had replaced his left knee three years earlier. The doctor examined the knee, ran some tests and drew some fluid off the knee. The fluid drain provided some immediate relief but the

doctor's prognosis was that the damage to the knee was significant and that there weren't many options outside of a replacement.

Over July 4th week our son Tim and his wife Pat came out to visit. During the week we did some modifications to one of our main floor bedrooms so that we could move our laundry room upstairs from the basement so Vi wouldn't have to traverse the stairs every week on laundry day.



We completed the conversion and got the washer and dryer moved upstairs but the project continued to wear on Dick's knee. It became clear that the trips up and down the stairs, into the attic and up on the roof had worn out what was left of the knee and there was no longer an option to wait further on the surgery.

The knee replacement was scheduled for August 8th. Dick also needed to have cataract surgery so while waiting on the knee date to arrive he had one eye done in late July. Our son Tim came back out to help us out during the surgery and recovery. Dick went into the hospital on Wednesday, Aug 8th for the knee replacement surgery. The surgery went well but the doctor indicated that there was a lot of existing soft tissue damage to the knee that

would need to heal along with the replacement work. Dick was in the hospital for 5 days and came home on Sunday, August 12th. Unlike the left knee replacement three years ago, recovery this time did not start out smoothly. Continued swelling and fluid buildup limited the progress of physical rehab early on and it was necessary to have fluid drained off the knee multiple times. Now entering the fourth week of recovery Dick is making good progress and the knee is starting to heal and recover well.



There is still a long rehab road ahead, but we praise God and are encouraged at the progress seen in the last week! Continue to pray for Dick's recovery and his upcoming cataract surgery on the second eye. Pray for strong legs and clear vision.

Please continue to pray for Vi and her hip and leg problems as well. Bless her heart, she continues to hurt but keeps on going. We are consulting with the doctors and praying for her healing and strength.

Thank you for all your support, you are all precious to us and in our prayers!

Dick and Vi

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:57-58

We had hoped to head back toward Arizona in mid-September to attend our Navy reunion and then on to visit supporting churches and friends and see if there is some light maintenance work that Dick can do somewhere. It looks however like this year's work schedule will be limited. At this time we are hoping to leave here in late October or November.

Pray with us regarding our future as missionaries with Hard Hats as the health issues with both of us are really slowing us down. We are seeking God's direction at this time regarding what He has for us to do and how He wishes to use us going forward. We are thankful to our family and friends who have done so much to support us during these difficult times. We thank God for all of you who have supported us in prayer and financially so that we can continue to serve our Lord as long as He wills. We've been so richly blessed with so many wonderful projects to be a part of over the years and met so many wonderful friends that it's hard for us to imagine what life will be without being a Hard-Hatter. Pray that God will give us the health and ability for a few more years of service to Him.

We have been blessed with wonderful mild weather this summer here in Western North Carolina. Just enough rain to keep everything green and no temperatures above the 80's. It has been a great environment for us to rest and recuperate and have some down-time to consider where He has taken us and where He is leading.