

We didn't get any better looking in 2016, so I used an earlier picture!



The Williamson Wonderings

Christmas 2016

CWCf | Construction Workers
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

To sum up right here at the beginning, in 2016 I (Dave) would say that we kept on keeping on, thanks to the prayers and financial support of many of you. Thank you! Read on if you're into details... 😊

Construction Workers Christian Fellowship entered a new phase as our Founders, Jim and Jean Hodges, officially retired from ministry in May. But we continued to grow and serve this past year. We had nearly a dozen new couples join Ready Volunteers for Christ and we were able to give significant help to 26 Christian ministries, ranging from camps to colleges, and from churches to mission agencies. We worked in 12 states and made an exploratory visit to a possible project in Haiti. **Thank you for praying and giving!**



You can check out our active and planned projects on our website at http://www.hh4c.org/Project_List_files/project-list.pdf.



With the help of several other volunteers, I've returned to working on the TOOLBOX™ Safety Cards project. Please pray that we'll have at least a half dozen of these ready to publish in the first quarter of 2017. **Please continue to pray for the success of this Mission critical project!**

I enjoyed a quick trip to the Southeast in July and the first few days in August, when I was able to visit with a good number of friends and partners and to meet with the Board of the Haitian ministry. Well, it's probably more accurate to say that I enjoyed all of the trip except the hours leading up to admittance to the ER at Piedmont Henry Hospital in Stockbridge, GA! Although, if you *must* spend time in an ER, I highly recommend that one! A urological issue involving a catheter, need I say more? Well, I'm not going to! Except that a follow-up biopsy performed in October found no cancer in the prostate. PTL!

Our CWCf Board lost long-time member Don Brooks to his battle with cancer at the end of August. Don served eight years, three as Treasurer and five as Board Chair. On a plaque presented to his widow at his memorial service were the words, "Under Don's leadership, our board 'grew up'." He is greatly missed.

On the same day we lost Don, we gained a new Board member, a US citizen from Alaska by way of the Philippines who now lives in Washington state, Frank Taylor. Frank and Carol came to us as RV'ers for Christ, and have endeared themselves very quickly to us all. A road trip to California in February on Board-business with our new Chairman, Jim Wellcome, was a fun "male-bonding" experience, similar in ways to a great trip a couple of years ago with another board member in Tennessee. Only this time I didn't end up with my back out of whack and stranded in an airport for three days!



CWCf Board members and wives enjoyed good fellowship at a very productive Annual Board Retreat in August.

The Board as a whole continues to strive for excellence in governance of CWCf. We revitalized the committee structure and multiple committees met every month, getting a LOT of work done. In 2017 we're backing off to just one committee meeting monthly, but still have ambitious goals for the Board. We're looking for at least two more good men to join our Board, as well as those to add to our "1,000". **So please continue to pray for the CWCf Board, and our CWCf recruitment efforts!**



One of the disappointments of the past year has been the inability to gain any traction in the local construction community with our Hard Hats for Christ breakfast. As a result of poor attendance by tradespeople and contractors, we've abandoned that strategy for the time being. Instead of trying to get a local chapter going, we are going to focus efforts in 2017 on a "virtual chapter" coalescing around a blog post that will begin soon on our new website, www.cwcf.org. If you click on that now it will take you to hh4c.org, our existing website. But we hope to have the new one, and my blog, up and running by the first of the year.

Again, thank you for praying that I can stay focused on these two main tasks, the blog and the TOOLBOX™ Safety Cards!

Ann and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary a few weeks late in Yakima, Washington, where we enjoyed a concert by Celtic Woman in the civic center arena. It was more or less up close and personal, and cheaper than tickets for the same show in Portland! We also got away to Long Beach.



February was a BIG BIG month with the arrival of Rachel's and Justin's first daughter, Kyra, just a few hours before her Grandpappy's birthday. Her four older brothers adore her! Ann got to see them a month after she was born in Virginia, but I'm looking forward to a first visit next year, and glad they are closer to us now. Well, Oklahoma is a good bit closer to Washington than Virginia or Delaware! Long story (*no doubt, to be continued... but not here*)... At least I got to spend a little time with the Colorado Grands, Nicholas and Samara en route to the Southeast (unfortunately, the photos went down with the ship, see below...).

Life on the farm is kind of laid back for Seth and Tiffany and the kids. Sadly, they had to give up their horses this year, but their flock of chickens (some of them exotic, to say the least) continues to grow, along with rabbits, cats, a wonderful German Shepherd, a parakeet, a pot-bellied pig and an albino python. Ye-s-s-s....



Progress on the Bionic Woman continued in 2016. Ann had her other hip replaced and is doing fine with it. There was lots of drama in scheduling/canceling/rescheduling the operation due to concerns (undue) about her heart condition (completely under control), but she ended up having the procedure done on its originally scheduled date late in June. In August, her knee buckled on her as she came downstairs at home. This sent her flying across the landing into the doors of the pantry, her glasses splitting her eyebrow, and the edge of the door slicing a nasty gash in her forehead. She too was able to make new friends at the hospital ER, as I've been doing recently, and she learned what nice people they can be! I'd gotten acquainted locally in May, when I stuck a screw driver into a high voltage electrical panel. No, it *wasn't shocking*—I only got singed and burned (thank God for Providential watch care over idiots)! And thank God also for Christian brothers and sisters who have helped pay all my hospital bills through the health expense sharing program at Samaritans Ministries International (<http://samaritanministries.org/>). If you are looking for a Christian alternative to health insurance, I highly recommend Samaritans. If you decide to sign up, mention me (Dave) and my annual membership fee will be waived. Thanks.



Caleb had his struggles in 8th grade, the first year of public school for him. But he's been doing remarkably well in High School (yes, High School) so far, PTL! Certain academics are still a challenge for him, and we're grateful that the school and the teachers are proactive in looking for ways to help him succeed. He's maturing into a fine young man. **Thank you for your prayers, and don't let up!**

Friends of ours introduced us to kayaking. We took advantage of some gorgeous days in September and kayaked on several local rivers and lakes. Ann acquired a boat of her own, with our friends' help, and I'm in the market for one as soon as finances allow (which, as I write, are running about \$10k behind our 2015 support level). On September 27th I rolled the kayak I'd borrowed, and I, my iPhone 5, and my



prescription sunglasses all went exploring the bottom of a muddy estuary of the Columbia River. Sadly, I was the only survivor of the three (may the others rest in peace). Thank God for phone insurance also! For a week I was relegated to a flip-phone (DON'T try to go back to texting on a flip-phone if you value your sanity...) and was more-than-normally-clueless without my contact list and my calendar—a poignant reminder of our totally ridiculous dependence on technology. Thank God for the "cloud", where much to my surprise and delight, I found both calendar and contacts were backed up!

Well, a couple of the above "thank God for..."s could have been a little tongue in cheek, but this one's definitely not. **Thank God** that He loved us this much: "He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." The babe in the manger at Bethlehem entered our tumultuous, sin-sick world, grew up and as a man showed us the Father, and then paid the debt we owed but could never pay. Thank God for His amazing gift!

Merry Christmas, and Love to all,

Dave, Ann, and Caleb

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