



Maine Maritime Ministry

Sharing the love and gospel of Jesus along the coast of Maine and beyond
"Consider all a joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials." James 1:2

Dear Family & Friends,

January 26, 2018

I am sorry for the delay in this letter, but I had been in the hospital longer than anticipated. When the doctor showed me the X-rays of my hips, he gasped, "Your hips are horrible! They are supposed to be round on top but yours are flat and jagged". The x-rays were obvious, so I scheduled my left hip to be replaced January 8 and my right hip February 22. He would not do them both at the same time nor felt comfortable doing them closer than six weeks apart. However, after surgery, Dr. Moran told Vickie that the x-rays were no exaggeration and wasn't sure if my right hip will hold up another six weeks. So there is a possibility of operating sooner.



God is so good! A couple of days before my operation I was having my morning devotions and out of the corner of my eye I saw my grandson Mason at my feet! I was beside myself! Sarah, Mark, Mason and Noelle drove through the night to be with me for the operation. PTL! The joy continues in trials, as James says, "Consider it all joy..." After the operation I had high-grade fevers for a week, up to 103.6. A low grade fever is common after a hip replacement, but not such a high one. They did so many tests that they were running out of places to stick me in the arms! All tests came back negative. All the doctors in the hospital were in on the consultation and one told me "your surgeon is having an anxiety attack!" The fever went away the day after I finally came home.



To add to the fun, we had three feet of snow on the ground and it rained at least three inches while I was in the hospital, flooding our basement. Poor Vickie worked so hard trying to bucket and shop vac it out by hand for hours. Our friend and neighbor, Howard came with his portable sump pump. They also called the Whitefield Fire Company, who also brought their pump. The next day, George, a friend from church, and Vickie finished the job with two shop vacs. God is teaching me to lay up treasure in heaven for so much of my worldly treasures were ruined again.

We are happy to report that we delivered Amish/English Bibles to every Amish family that has moved to our area, seven families in all. Each one invited us in and we sat by their cozy wood stoves, welcoming them in Jesus's name, giving them a special gift of God's Word to celebrate their first Christmas in their new homes in Maine. Vickie also gave them each her famous homemade Danish Braid. Everything was well received and every Amish family made sure we left with baked and canned confections of their own. We had a very sweet Christmas in more ways than one. ***Here is a true Amish riddle for you...*** A young man named Mose Miller told us, " Mose Yoder is my first cousin and Mose's ten children are also my first cousins. How can this be? (*The answer will be coming next month.*) Thank you for your prayers in delivery of these Bibles. Please continue to pray as we follow up with each family and talk to them about the Lord. In the front of each Bible we put the verses of Joshua 1:8 and Matthew 4:4 which shows the importance of being in God's word every day.

With all our love and gratitude! Your servant and His,

Chris and Vickie Gerardi

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