

May 2014

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

As I sit here in Jacksonville, FL with jetlag at 4 in the morning writing my prayer letter, I praise the Lord for His goodness. Last Saturday I receive a call from my daughter Nicole. She stated that my mother was in the hospital because she was found in the nursing home that morning unresponsive, not breathing and turning blue. They resuscitated her at the nursing home and then again on the way to the hospital in the ambulance. The doctor at the hospital told Nicole to call family members because it was very likely she will not make it through the night. Nicole explained that I was in Italy and again the doctor told her to tell me that I had better make arrangements to come back to Florida. I had cared for my mother's needs for 8 years and there is no doubt that I am the closest person to my mother. When God called us to go to Italy I knew that beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is God's will. I knew I would miss our kids and grandbaby but I didn't know if I would ever see my mom again this side of Heaven. Since we left for Italy in January our two daughters have been helping my mom and doing a wonderful job. I had no doubt that they would. When I got that call from Nicole there was no thought of, "Why did we come to Italy? Why are we so far away?" No, I have perfect peace to be in Italy where God called us. But right now my mom and my daughters need me. Since I started pastoring Calvary Baptist Church in Italy I have been training the men of the church to take care of things in my absence. I have had several of the men preach and we have a couple of men who lead the singing. I told them if for some reason I ever had to leave for a short time the church should go on like I was there. I had a meeting with the men of our church before I left and I know that Calvary Baptist is in good hands. Lou Anne and I left our house in Italy and about 21 hours later I was in Jacksonville and in ICU holding my mother's hand as she lay asleep on life support and with tubes running everywhere. Nicole also called my 2 sisters who live out of state. They flew in the day she called. Yesterday while in the hospital, I took the opportunity and sat with one of my sisters and witnessed to her for about an hour. She had many questions and I answered each one and explained what God's word says. Please pray for my mom. They don't know how long she was not breathing and she died twice. The doctor said he is still not sure about her recovery but she is stable right now. The major concern is, if she survives, is brain damage. They will not know for some time. I will return to our ministry in Italy on Tuesday. I love our church in Italy and miss them very much. God has been doing great things at Calvary Baptist Church. We had an amazing 25th anniversary service and have had several visitors come to our church. Please continue to pray for Calvary Baptist Church. Pray for the military, their families stationed in Aviano, Italy and our Italian neighbors. Please pray for our troops and their families around the world. Please continue to pray for my family.

I had completed my May prayer letter on Saturday May 10 and sent it out to BIMi for mailing, but I needed to revise it. This is what has happened since then. Saturday morning my sisters flew back home because we were told my mom was stable. Sunday afternoon May 11th after church my daughter and I went back to the Hospital to visit my mom. I spoke with the doctor and he told me she was progressively getting worse. She was no longer responsive and would have to stay on the ventilator and a feed tube to keep her alive. I know that was against my mother's wishes she told me many times she did not want to be kept alive on a machine but wanted to go when it was her time. I called my family who were out of state and told them that they better get to Jacksonville ASAP. On Monday afternoon everyone was assembled at the hospital and we met with Hospice. Then at 5PM they took my mom off live support. I thank God that my mom had trusted Christ and I had the privilege to baptize her years ago. At 8:10 PM Monday evening mom went home to be with the Lord. I love my mom very much and had a great relationship with her and I will miss her every day. But I thank God that we who are Christians will see one another again in Glory. Tuesday morning God gave me the grace to have a memorial service and to present the gospel to my lost family members. It is now Thursday May 15th and I am sitting in the Jacksonville Airport waiting to board my flight to go back home to Aviano, Italy and Calvary Baptist Church. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for our family during this time.

In Christ,

Chris and Lou Anne War