



Christmas 2012

Shirley

This hasn't been a good year for Shirley. Her official diagnosis is progressive lumbar stenosis. That's a degenerative disease of the spine, and causes her considerable pain. She has an appointment at a pain clinic in early January.

She currently uses a walker and gets around quite well. She's not allowed to drive, so either C-C or I become her driver.

Both of us are handling this quite well. Before we married, both of us knew that if we both lived into the senior-citizen status I'd become her primary caregiver. That's starting to happen, and I thank God for preparing us for this time in our lives together.

Cec

I'm doing well—no meds and no physical complaints. I still run every day. I'm grateful to be alive and healthy.

Because I feel I need to be home more, I've cut back considerably on my travel schedule. Even when I go out of town, I'm accepting speaking opportunities where I'll be away only one or two days.

The lesser-travel schedule has given me more time for writing. This year I had four books published. I'm especially excited about three spring book releases. One is called *I Believe in Healing: True Stories from the Bible, History, and Today*. The first part has about a hundred brief testimonies of healing from the first century through the present. The second part presents a theological and historical base for physical healing today.

The second is *Not Quite Healed*, a book aimed at survivors of male sexual abuse.

The third is a novel I've worked on for years, titled *The Promises of Ophelia Bennett*, set in Northern Illinois in 1940.

The older Shirley and I get the more thankful we are for our faith in Jesus Christ and his grace through our years together. We're also grateful for the individuals in our lives—people like you—who have enriched, encouraged, and rebuked us when we needed it.

As the title of the old James Stewart film says, "It's a Wonderful Life."

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