Jim & Stacie Bowers **March 2023**

Greetings from Fajardo, PR where we arrived this past Thursday, March 2, after 6 weeks at sea. We stepped on dry land somewhere most every day, but did do some overnight sailing with extended time at sea! Though Lauren couldn't be with us this time, we enjoyed hosting 3 different couples for several days, each in different islands. There were many opportunities to interact with local people on each island, whether through the need for boat maintenance, laundry, groceries, exploring, or just enjoying local food! The time with each of these people was often a once only conversation, but we trust God will use whatever seeds were sown for the Kingdom.

Our first 3 weeks were spent making our way to St Vincent, as we went from island to island, I often felt as though we were a crippled boat just hobbling our way down there, managing to keep things running just enough to make it! We stopped in new places, visited familiar spots from our cruise 5 ½ years ago, and enjoyed the simplicity of boat life! However, a line snagged our prop and created a 6-day delay in our original schedule when we had to haul the boat out of the water to see if the vibration we now had was a bent propeller shaft. When the boat yard workers noticed rust on the keel joint they were sure that the bolts on the keel should be checked, so we ended up having a lot of time and expense in St Lucia, an island we hadn't planned to visit! The vibration was caused by the engine becoming misaligned and that was fixed. Though frustrated, we were pleased to see how God used that unwanted circumstance in our lives and hopefully in the lives of various yard workers, new friends we left behind in St Lucia.

Some of our favorite stops were going back to places we had been before, like Marlene's favorite island of Dominica. Not only was Madiba Beach Café rebuilt after Hurricane Maria, but we also explored some places where scenes from Pirates of the Caribbean were filmed.

Today Jim will be deciding about a possible slip for our boat, which is currently at anchor in front of that marina. This has been a concern since there are waiting lists at all 5 of the marinas near Fajardo. We really hope we'll have the boat in a secure base of operations as we restart our sailing ministries soon. Tonight, Lauren will be arriving with 3 friends from Word of Life for their Spring Break! We are excited to have her at home with us for a week, but also very happy that she is enjoying her experiences at Word of Life.

Thank you for your interest in our lives, for praying for us especially during our recent cruise, and continuing to pray as we see how God wants to use us in Puerto Rico during this next phase in our lives. Marlene will be with us until the end of May and then she will be working at Word of Life this summer again as a Lifeguard at the Island, and continuing on at Word of Life Bible Institute in the fall.

Full letters are available at the missionary table.

OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD AFFAIRS: Remember to pray for our country and our government leaders. Pray that people's hearts would be turned to God, and that His Word would be taught in our churches. Remember also those who are suffering for their faith.

MILITARY: Remember to pray for God's guidance and safety for our military personnel: **David Casement**, **Brendun Deer, Aaron Good, Adam Good, Zack Hanson**, **Joshua P. Harold, Stephen Harold, Jarrod Harris**, **Justin Ivan, Zachary Ivan, Scott McKinney, Brendan Patrick, Eian Patrick, Lia Staats, Liam Thisse, and Alex Wallace**.

Year-to Date Budget $244,222 / Year-to-date Giving $257,802
Anniversary Offering - $11,921

EVANGEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Evangel @ Prayer

5/24/2023

May 24, 2023

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pam** (Bonnie Pyle's sister-in-law) had her heart transplant surgery today. It was a 12-hour surgery. Please pray that there would be no complications or problems with rejection of the heart, and that her healing and recovery would go smoothly.
- **Amanda Hurley's grandmother** made it through her surgery well to remove a large tumor attached to her upper and middle right lung. She is expected to be in intensive care for a few more days. Pray for the biopsy results and the future treatment plan.
- **Donald Hurley** is doing well after having several seizures earlier last week. They still do not know what caused the seizures. Pray that Amanda is able to schedule another appointment for him at the Cleveland clinic.
- **Krista Bonesteel** is completing her third round of chemo this week and will likely start a fourth the first week in June. She has started the testing with U of M for stem cell therapy and will potentially start that in mid-July. So far, her doctors are pleased with the results from the scans and tests. Continue to pray for good results for any future testing as well as continued strength and energy.
- Please pray for **Candi Swift's mother** who injured her foot recently. Pray that she would acknowledge her need for regular assistance and choose to move into the nursing home from the independent living facility she has been in.
- Please be in prayer for **Bonnie Pyle's friend** who had her right foot and lower leg amputated because of complications from a previous injury. She is healing well but has developed a bed sore and is diabetic. Pray for quick healing and that her heart would be encouraged during this time.
- Pray for **Bob & Sandie Bates**. Bob has some upcoming tests regarding his heart. Pray for accurate results. Sandie fell and broke a bone in her wrist which is now in a splint untilled healed. Pray for quick healing.
- **Dina Simmonds** has been going through a lot recently. She is having a lot of pain and the tests are inconclusive. Her car is also giving her trouble and she has been unable to work or receive financial help. Please pray for encouragement and help.
- **Barb & Henry Thimmes** need prayer for strength, encouragement, and wisdom as they make daily caregiving decisions.
- **Adrienne Johnson** has several health issues that have prevented her from coming to church and fellowshipping. Please pray for healing and encouragement.
- Pray for strong marriages in our church – that our marriages would be an example of Christ's love to the world.
- Pray for those who are counseling others and for those being counseled. Pray for wisdom and insight and for God to work in lives.
- Pray for the persecuted believers all over the world and thank God for the freedom we enjoy.
- Pray for those with whom the gospel was shared this week; pray for spiritual growth of those who have recently professed Christ.
- Pray for our young people that are serving at Lake Ann this summer.
- Pray for our Senior Saints: **Charles & Nancy Burch, Bill & Nancy Coates**
- Pray for our Young Adults: **Sadie and Sarah Searcy, Hannah and Luke Scully**

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Kids with Character
Children's Choir

Abundant Life ABF – Gary McGuire, Teacher
Bereans ABF – Scott Lowrance, Teacher

Pastor Lounsbrough – Music; Missions; Administration
Pastor Bradshaw – Pastoral Intern; Youth

Chris Wallace – Deacon
Lee Widener – Deacon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK EVENING ACTIVITIES

We will have a two-week break from midweek evening activities on May 24th and 31st. On Wednesday June 7th, we will resume our midweek evening activities with Kids with Character, Children's Choir, Evangel Student Ministries (Teens), and our Adult Bible Study.

VBS CRAFT NEEDS

In preparation for Vacation Bible School our craft leaders are collecting large (28oz) aluminum/tin cans for a craft they will be doing with the kids. If you have any cans to donate, please place them in the marked box by the VBS volunteer signup table.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Starting Wednesday, June 7th our summer Children's ministries will start at 6:45 pm. **Kids with Character** disciples children age 3 to 5 through age-appropriate teaching, activities, and crafts. **Children's Choir** is a summer ministry for kids in grades K through 6th (just completed). Our goals are to build (1) a theological framework through singing questions and answers, (2) Bible memory through singing, movement, and Bible story time, (3) musical experiences through exposure to instruments and ensembles, and (4) musical literacy through a variety of creative and fun activities. **Register** on the Church Center App or online at https://evangelbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1747538.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

5/28 – Henry Thimmes, John Schaaf, Lorna Walker **5/29** – Jerry Diserens
5/31 – Charles Burch, Doug Donahue, Mike Veenstra
6/1 – Marie Standifer

6/1 – Will & Katie Parks