



Thankful This Christmas

This is the season that we as Christians focus on being grateful to our Savior who came to earth to give us new life. Along with this season come stresses that may make our focus blurred. I'd like to share a few personal experiences that may help encourage you in keeping a well-adjusted focus.

Our immediate family had a trial this year where we saw God's hand in many areas. As we were getting ready for our son's soccer game, my father called and said, "Your mother is in critical condition, and you need to come to the hospital (in Pennsylvania) immediately." We were shocked to learn that she didn't have the flu, as we all thought, but an infection that went into sepsis. She had lapsed into a coma and was on the threshold of death. We were unsure what lie ahead as we made the four-hour drive that morning. My mother had been caring for my father for some time since he had been confined to a wheelchair due to an infected knee replacement, which was removed. He was due to have his surgery that next week. The situation looked grim. My husband Jim and I knew that I would need to remain in Pennsylvania to take care of my father until after his surgery while we waited on the outcome of my mother's illness.

This is when I saw my father's faith clearly. He has been a Gideon for many years, and I now saw firsthand the Word of God, he had handed out many times before, also lived deeply in his heart. Though tearful, he was also joyful knowing his hope was in the Lord who held my mom's future. In the midst of all the stress, the Lord worked out the details for all of us. We went home and prepared for the weeks ahead. My son remained with my husband in Connecticut. Friends offered to take him to Jim's office after school. I took our daughters with me back to Pennsylvania since they were presently being home-schooled. The women of our church brought wonderful meals to my husband and son. (*I began to wonder if they would ever miss my cooking again.*) My husband Jim also kept his focus on His Savior and kept things running at home as I was gone for that month.

My mother slowly began to recover, and then my

dad had his knee replacement surgery. In God's perfect plan, after many weeks of recovery in two different hospitals, they were finally together in the same room at the rehab facility for a few weeks. They both were released to go home the same day. What a miracle!! Though my dad is currently back in the hospital battling the knee infection again, his cheerful attitude is a witness to many. His hope is secure.

The second area we are grateful for is the CCA regional chapter in Connecticut of which my husband is the president. As everyone is busy this time of year, we decided to meet in a nice restaurant together with all the spouses (minus the kids). A few e-mail alerts gathered ten of us last week for a wonderful time of fellowship, mutual sharpening, and encouragement in our common vision. It is quite a rarity to be a Christian chiropractor in Connecticut (New England), and it was a blessing for the doctors to encourage each other and share many laughs. We also learned that one of our members had previously had prior interest in the priesthood - we're thankful that God led him into chiropractic!

We're taught in the Word of God to be grateful in good and bad times. One is a little easier than the other! We know that God is in control, sovereign, and will work all things together for good to those who



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love Him and are called according to His purpose. May the Lord be the center of your focus this season and beyond in the expected and unexpected. Psalm 18:46 "The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of my salvation."