



Justapreacher Ministries

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. — 2 Timothy 4:2

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We hope the new year has brought many blessings your way. It has been a while since we sent out a newsletter update, and there have been some definite changes in our lives in the past month or so. God has been using these changes to teach us more about Him.

On Christmas morning, Jim preached at First Baptist Church, Rockledge, FL. After the morning service, we traveled to Becky's parents' house to share Christmas with that side of the family. About 5 hours after arriving there, we got word that Jim's dad, Milton, had checked himself into the hospital. Jim left Becky and the kids at the in-laws', and drove back to Melbourne that night to take care of his mom and be with her and dad at the hospital. The plan was for him to stay in Melbourne until Tuesday the 27th, when we expected Dad would be discharged from the hospital. Then Jim was supposed to drive to New Orleans for a close friend's wedding. Little did we know that Christmas night that a month-long vigil had begun.

Praise God for giving Jim the presence of mind to notice on Tuesday in the hospital that Dad had fallen into an unusually deep sleep. He called the nurse, and she woke Dad, asking him his name and birth date, neither of which he knew. They discovered that both the infection of cellulitis in his legs and extremely high CO2 levels in his blood were poisoning his blood, and leading to delirium. Rapidly, he went from joking with the nurses to needing to be intubated. Dad spent 8 days in medical ICU. There was a time when we

were not at all sure he would live. But God is so gracious, and He brought Dad healing. Dad spent two weeks in the hospital, and another two weeks in a rehab hospital. Through this entire time, God was showing Jim and the rest of the family that Mom's Alzheimer's has recently rapidly progressed. We feel sure that Dad's own health down-spiraled mainly because he had become overwhelmed in caring for Mom. When Dad was in the hospital before he went in to ICU, he admitted to Jim that he felt maybe they needed a place to go. Once his own health digressed, while he was in ICU, we began trying to find a place they could go that they could afford, and that would allow them to stay together, meeting both their health needs. None of the places seemed to want to return our calls, and we didn't really know what to do. One day at the hospital, while Jim and Mom were sitting with Dad, Jim felt strongly that God was telling him to visit Bethesda Senior Care in Palm Bay. He immediately went there, and God orchestrated the whole thing. Within just a few days, everything was set, and Mom and Dad are now moved into their own little apartment, complete with kitchen, screened back porch, and a beautiful view of Turkey Creek. God is so GOOD! Please continue to pray for their health and finances, but we have so much to be thankful for! During the first couple of weeks of Dad's hospital stay, Jim's brother Jeff purchased a ticket to come from Thailand, planning to arrive on the 10th of January. Just a couple of days after he

purchased the ticket, he received word from his mission organization that his position as a teacher in an underground seminary was through, since he had taught the local believers well enough that they can now self-teach. So, he had worked himself out of a job. He had to have his family out of Thailand by the end of January, or pay another month's rent. SO, we encouraged him to do the sensible thing, and change his ticket to travel to Florida at the same time as the rest of his family. They arrived safely last night, praise the Lord. They will be living with us for a few weeks, and then will likely stay in the guest house of some friends here locally. In all of this, God blessed in that Jim's schedule was not over-filled during the month of January. We were privileged to hold our first God-Centered Ministry Conference for pastors and their wives in the Lake City, FL area. Jim's older sister, Norma, came to stay with Mom and Dad so we could be gone over that weekend. It was a blessed time of mutual encouragement for all that were able to attend. Please let us know if you would like us to host a similar conference in your area. Please be in prayer that God will fill Jim's spring schedule as He sees fit. Thank you for your faithfulness to keep praying for us. Please also pray for Jim's brother Jeff, his wife Julie and their daughters, that God will make clear what their next step in ministry will be. We love and appreciate all of you.

Upcoming preaching schedule:

- *Palm Bay Baptist Sunday, February 12 at 8am, 10am and 6pm.*
- *Christ is the Answer Rescue Mission Monday evening, February 13.*
- *Men in Motion—Central Baptist Church, Melbourne, FL—Tuesdays at noon.*
- *Tuesday Night Bible Study, Indian Harbour Beach, FL—7pm.*



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