



When Things Go Thud In the Night—And A Lesson In Prayer

It was 1:45 a.m. on June 18th. A distinct heavy thud followed by a second heavier crash awakened me from a deep sleep. Even before being fully awake, I was sure that Robert had fallen and somehow his desk and/or bookshelf had fallen on top of him. Heart pounding, I looked at his spot in the bed beside me, and was flooded with relief at seeing him lying sound asleep beside me.

Then I wondered if Mom had fallen. I tiptoed, heart still pounding, down the hall to her room and opened the door to look in on her. Everything seemed okay. Another huge sigh of relief!

Maybe there was an intruder in the house? Fearfully, heart continuing to pound, I crept around the house looking for evidence of an invasion. Nothing. I finally concluded that the sound had been a very real part of some dream.

But I was wide awake now! Unable to fall back asleep, I eventually got up and read from an excellent book I recently acquired called *Sitting at the Feet of Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*. The chapter I was reading described Jewish life as being saturated with prayer. In Jesus' day, each prayer was a short line that started out with "Blessed is he ..." Awakening in the morning to the crow of the rooster, one might immediately bless God for returning his soul to him for yet another day. This kind of prayer would be peppered throughout each day so that by day's end, a person may have prayed as many as 100 times. This kind of peppering would be the basis for Paul's admonition to pray continually.

I certainly had plenty for which to be blessing God at 3:00 a.m. that day! And I found lots more reasons as the day went by. I would love to make frequent prayers of thanksgiving a regular part of my life.

Re-acquaintance With the ER

Robert's health has been in a slow decline for many months with not-well-controlled blood sugar and blood pressure. But the last day of June it took a nosedive that re-acquainted us with the inside of an ER room twice in just a few days. His new physician changed his meds to help get his blood sugar and blood pressure under control, and they are responding nicely. He was also given antibiotics for an infection from a diabetic ulcer on his big toe, dangerous for diabetics. The wound care doctor is afraid infection may have invaded the bone. Tests are being run to find out. Robert is slowly regaining strength but still needs a lot of rest. Visits to the wound care clinic will be a weekly thing for at least two or three months.

Ministry Progress Report

Since we began with Partners in Joy, Robert has been researching and organizing the information for about 30 online courses, and along the way filing away information for many additional courses he could write. These courses are largely geared towards people who intend to minister in a culture other than their own. A couple of the initial 30-ish courses are well developed and nearing audience-ready. These courses will not be published in hard copy, only released online. He is also writing a textbook on Anthropology which is already several hundred pages

long. At this point the plan is for it, also, to be distributed online rather than published in hard copy. We are at the stage where we hope to begin seeking interaction with key Christian educators who could help us network with established schools or individuals in different countries around the world to talk about ways to get these courses in use.

Visitors

These past two months have been made extra joyful by a parade of guests blessing us with short stays in our home. First, dear friends from Peru/Norway, Israel and Anne Marie Mandujano, came for several days, and then Robert's wonderful niece, Joanne Martin, for a weekend, and finally sweet Laura Cepeda, the granddaughter of my precious Colombian friend Bertha Sanchez. She just left for the airport after spending 10 days with us, helping out a LOT during Robert's days of acute illness. Thank you, dear ones, for sharing yourselves with us!



↑ Laura taking Mom for a short walk on our street



Enjoying a meal with Israel and Anne Marie. ↑

Just before Laura left for the airport →



Praise and Prayer

- Please pray that the **infection** in Robert's toe will heal quickly. I still need prayer for **better sleep**. We'd both love to have **improved health and energy**, that we might be able to forge ahead with the work God has given us.
- Please ask God for **wisdom and productivity** for Robert in creating these courses to help train third world missionaries. His heart is to come alongside others and help them succeed in their God-given calling.
- We are so grateful for those who invest in us and our ministry. Please pray for **provision** for the needs of our supporters and for our own ongoing needs. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord will provide.

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