

You Can't Get There From Here...Really?

"I'll bring your daughter home after the reunion...I just need good directions."

"You won't need directions; she knows the way."

That wasn't the first time I was amazed and awed by my friend Debbie whose parents had equipped her to live a normal life despite the fact that her physical eyes didn't work. We set off for her home, a mere hundred miles away and I confidently got us to Norfolk and then asked for directions.

There was one small problem—she knew the way from Williamsburg where she studied at William and Mary and we were in Norfolk. I got us to Suffolk at dark and then the fun began.

None of her directions matched the route numbers. This was before cell phones, GPS, or other helps that make travel so easy now. I pulled over and consulted a map. Useless—it devoted 3 square inches to Suffolk. On the road again, we tried a number of routes, laughing as we went. Worried that we were significantly late, I called her dad and described where we were. His "try this" didn't do the trick. I prayed for help and lo and behold, noticed a taxi that was parked at a convenience store. The cabby laughed with us and led us to her home. We COULD get there from here!

These past two years have reminded me of that journey when nothing seemed to work to get us to our destination. But God . . . Between mid-May last year and mid-March this year we lost 5 significant folks—decades long mentors, friends, CliffAnn's God son, and a board member.

It's been as if all 7 stages of grief have been placed in a huge salad bowl and we never knew which one(s) would be served up. Cancer, heart failure, a wreck and a pulmonary embolism caused unimaginable pain to their families and to us.

Yet, the pleasing thing about a salad is the good and tasty bites—and there were plenty this year as we celebrated lives well lived, freedom from pain, being in the presence of God (as they all are), and memories of life and ministry together spanning 40 years. The tears now are fewer, the memories bring joy instead of pain, and we're navigating the jumbled steps of compound grief with God's constant presence and help.

We **can** all get there from here! In this crazy world, God is still on the throne, still loving you, still there for you even in what seems to be a desolate time or place. You matter to Him! He understands all that you are feeling. And He simply says, "come, let Me lead you. You really can get there from here!"

Amen!



Delightful Surprise

One afternoon we got a call inviting us to a fun evening with friends who had sung in the New Hermentics from the Circus Tent days. We sang the oldies but goodies and enjoyed the fellowship that grows only richer as time goes by.

So Long, John



John Hobbs slipped away from us on March 11th, leaving behind a legacy of sacrificial love that spanned every single day of his life since he accepted Jesus in 1969.

His passions grew as the years went by—for Jesus, his wife and family and for everyone else he met. The more of God's love he shared, the more he was given and he simply could not contain it. And he didn't even try.

God's love so permeated him that almost everyone John met felt that he was their best friend. What a gift of God that His presence in a person could impact folks so deeply and draw them to Jesus!

It was our privilege to know John and his family, to work with him for 40 years, to help disciple one of his sons, to share so many times of ministry and to have him on our board, advising, loving, cajoling and supporting us.

We look forward to the day we're re-united in God's presence. And we look forward to sharing today and every day the same love that fueled John's life, the love of our Father!



On our way to the House!

Program Report

CliffAnn Perry

What a crazy time it's been since our last newsletter! But even in the midst of our difficult journey God has used us (and you) to share His love and ministry with others. Here are some highlights.

We've kept in touch with children as we have ministered in a local Christian School as well as with Children's Churches. The puppets are always a hit.



A group of women at Kitty Hawk United Methodist Church invited us to share at their February meeting. We had some lovely volunteers who joined us for a skit and were encouraged afterward by the testimonies of what God did in some individuals.

We had the honor of speaking about and introducing missions and missionaries to Liberty's Teens once a week for a month. I'm so excited to see how God directs the lives of this Youth Group.



Even though we haven't been out of the country we have had the opportunity to meet with and encourage those who minister in Cuba, Thailand, Zambia and Israel this spring.



We traveled to Miami to meet with some of our Cuban Ministers. It was a joy to see them and discuss ways we can continue to encourage and enable the pastors and children's leaders there. Conditions there remain really bad with shortages of everything except desperate need—yet the church there is in revival!



We met with Mike Jones from NOAH Ministries in Zambia and spent several days with Sally Shiff who ministers in Israel. And of course

there are video calls to Thailand. God is doing incredible things around the world. He is so faithful!

His faithfulness is also seen in you as you have given, held us up in prayer and encouraged us through the years. We are so grateful and so often thank God for you and pray for you. Thank You!



Prayer Opportunities

Children's Camp and VBS at Liberty Christian Fellowship, June 27-30

For the preparation and training for our staff.

Working on preparing workshops to be filmed later in the summer.

Beginning to seek grants and funding for **The Meeting House**, our building in Kitty Hawk. It is our prayer that it will be used to train others to bring Glory to God through the Arts and to share His love with this community and the vast number of folks who pass through here each year.

For us as we travel to Oxford, England for the C. S. Lewis Conference. This has been on our bucket list for a long time and we were registered for 2020. It's finally going happen and we are excited. July 25 – August 6.

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