

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in His matchless Name!

Well, here we are again after a long hiatus. We hope you are all doing well. We wish you a spiritually prosperous New Year - 2018! We will celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Many great memories to celebrate.

We genuinely appreciate all your prayers for us! They are surely and sorely needed. Shirley continues on her roller coaster health ride. The good news is that she is home, unlike last year when she was in the nursing home. Each day she experiences usually about 3 or 4 severe pain episodes. We have tried Tylenol, Tylenol with codeine, Cymbalta, and presently even Oxycodone. None of these drugs do any more than dull the pain. Sometimes not at all. Lately I have seen a decline in her willingness to even get out of the bed in the morning. Last week she stayed in bed all day and all night. This happened for 3 days. It is only when she is sleeping that she is mostly free of pain. I am not sure if this is simply age-related or another downward spiral in her overall health. I took her to the doctors yesterday and he is going to try the normally prescribed drug for Polymyalgia Rheumatica - Prednisone. The reason he has been hesitant to do this previously is because of her diabetes and also because several years ago a doctor prescribed a high dosage which put her in the hospital. She went into a deep coma-like state where she didn't recognize me or anyone else for four days. They flushed her system and finally she "came back". We thought that was the end for her. It has now been 7 years that she has been battling this awful disease. She is in a wheelchair whenever we leave the house and mostly just using a walker around the house. She hasn't fallen nearly as often lately. Praise the Lord for that.

Shirley makes nearly every church service on Sunday's and Wednesday night and continues to play the piano. She is not the main pianist and though she makes some mistakes she continues to try in spite of arthritis in her hands. The main pianist recently had a baby so she has played alone for the last week.

As you know we have not been on the road much due to her disabilities. However I did preach a one day Prophecy Sunday for Pastor Aaron McCullough in Willingboro, NJ last week. The meetings were well attended and the interest was high. The church is growing! In the AM service I preached a message entitled "**Settling the Palestinian Question**" and had one lady raise her hand for salvation. The pastor's wife dealt with her. Believers came forward to "*get right for the flight*" into heaven at the Rapture and for other reasons. On Sunday evening the response was great with many on their knees at the altar.

I still teach the Adult S.S. class in our home church, thanks to the generosity of our gracious pastor, Louis Guarneri, at Straightway Baptist in Lawrenceville, NJ. (A fifteen minute ride from our home). He also generously allows this old man to preach on a Sunday night most months. It has been a few years since leaving the pastoral ministry and I really, really miss it. Had I known then that my health would not deteriorate I would have continued as a pastor. But after having a mini-stroke during an evening service I felt it wasn't fair to my people. I had experienced a major paralyzing stroke before that and also had a quadruple open heart bypass surgery as well.

Since I am Shirley's caregiver the Lord has seen fit to give me reasonably good health for an 83 year old man. I keep the house as clean as possible, do yard work, etc. and we have a gracious and generous lady from our former ministry as pastor of Faith Baptist in Fairless Hills who comes to our home every two weeks to help keep the house looking and smelling good. She has been doing this free of charge for many years! My daughter Crystal and our grand-daughter Stephanie (who will soon be moving away 😞) and daughter in law Amy, along with a couple of people from our church keep us stocked with food - since I don't cook. I am a microwave expert however. 😊 Usually there is enough food for the week with leftovers. We are so grateful for all those who help us.

Sincerely in the Savior,  
Pastor (emeritus) Paul Fedena