

May 13, 2016

Dear Friends,

I do not know how much information you have received, so I will give you our latest and trust that will at least bring you up to date. Following my cardiac arrest on March 10th I spent a month in the hospital. A week after my discharge I was back in the hospital again for a week. My recovery has been declared "miraculous" by the cardiologists – no memory loss, no brain or heart damage. This is for me what God has done, starting with the almost instant CPR by two men from our church.

All of this has had its effect on Madaline as you can well understand. We have both met with professionals – several of them – and it has been determined that we cannot meet the needs of each other at home. Madaline now needs 24 hour supervision even though she can pretty much care for her own personal needs-washing and dressing for instance. She has been officially taken into a full care facility and will not be returning home. I am signed up for an assisted living apartment in the same facility. This will enable us to be together as much as we want excepting nights, hopefully some meals. There is a waiting time for this arrangement for me, possibly until August due to the fact that that facility is being entirely renovated.

We knew before this happened that we would soon need to be in a senior-living situation somewhere here in Valkenswaard. We delayed so the Lord stepped in and this is the result. It is not easy for Madaline to accept and adjust to being alone right now – I do visit her just about every day, but since I am presently (two months because I now have an ICD/Pacemaker implant) not allowed to drive, I need to arrange transportation each time. This is sometimes difficult. We do most times have a pleasant visit. Her Alzheimer sickness has increased noticeably and is sometimes quite difficult. The Lord gives wisdom, courage and peace and your prayers help. Please do not let up.

I am sure you recognize one of the major results of these developments: no more travel to the United States. While this is sad for us, Madaline in particular, we need to accept it as the Lord's plan for us. We are both getting excellent care which will continue for the rest of our lives. We can also have visitors and you are all welcome. Roger and Lois Luce were here for five days this past week, on their way back to Tanzania. They expect to visit again in December as part of their trip back to the United States.

This obviously represents a major change in our lives. We are in the process of adjusting and accepting it but are at the same time thankful to our Lord for providing this type of care for us. I do have the huge job of closing down our lovely home here, disposing of so much of our accumulated possessions – furniture; appliances, clothes, mountains of paperwork and etc. other stuff. I should have mentioned this before: in all of these developments and that is a capital ALL, David and Criss have played a major role in helping. We could not have made it through it all without them. And they will be unmissable in the job I just mentioned.

This is now long enough and hopefully adequate information at this moment. If you have any questions, send them to off to me and I will try to answer quickly. We know many are praying and this is very important to us. Thank you.

Our greetings to each of you, and in the love of our Savior,

Herb (and for Madaline)