

Gerry & Sherry Breshears

Advent, 2008

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Christmas 2007 got so crazy that I never got our 2007 letter done. Part of that was that 2007 was a very new year. In October I went for my annual football visit to see Donn and Susan. Susan was seriously ill and the doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong. Two days later they discovered the cause: She was pregnant (remember, that they can't have children). The illness was preeclampsia. It was well progressed because it turned out she was about 39 weeks pregnant! Had they not discovered when they did, mother and baby would both have soon died from sepsis. Treatment was successful and Elizabeth Anne was born two weeks and a day later, on November 1. But the miracles were not done. Meconium Aspiration nearly robbed Elizabeth of her precious life. After spending nearly a month in intensive care, she arrived at their Kansas City home 3 minutes before Sherry, Cyndee, David, Joy and I drove up to visit her. This beautiful little girl is now delighting everyone. Sherry insisted on joining me for the 2008 football visit. While there I had the mixed blessing of leading the memorial service for my uncle Richard at Spring Branch Church of the Brethren where I grew up. God sent a large flight of pelicans to wonder us at His goodness.

Sherry got over the joy of retirement, but not so much that she wanted to go back to the stress that had dominated her life in project management. Helping people appeals to her a lot. So she hired into a small company to give support for photo kiosks in Rite Aid stores all over the country. Wouldn't you know it: that family like organization grew explosively. They saw how capable Sherry was and wanted to promote her into high responsibility positions. She resisted, but not with complete success. She's just too good! She works four days a week with Wednesday off so she can be pastor Sherry with her Tuesday evening women's Bible study. In November, she joined her Mom, sister and sister-in-law for a Mexican cruise. The giggling was pretty much non-stop!

Dreams came true for David and Samantha as he accepted a position as Guest Service Director at Camp Tadmor. That was the place where David learned a lot about serving the LORD first as a camper and then as "Eagle," a volunteer team member. It was there he met and courted Samantha. Now Nicole (8) and Joy (6) do their home schooling in a wilderness setting while David enables many others to enjoy learning Jesus lessons.

Cyndee continues to manage the dining room at Cannon Beach Conference Center. Her stress levels eased significantly as they reorganized the leadership team. She can actually take days off now. Her dream came true as she reconnected with her biological brother in a miraculous way after Jesus saved him out of an awful life. Now he's a chaplain who came to a conference at Cannon Beach so they could find each other. They hang out and compete noisily in Wii games. She and I enjoyed a Poppa Daughter trip to the Grand Canyon this fall.

The center of my life has stayed stable: teaching at Western, eldering at Grace, doing a lot of counseling and church consulting. I continue to serve on several ministry boards, including Pregnancy Resource Centers of Portland and InterAct Ministries which takes us to Alaska each August. My return to the Evangelical Theological Society board meant an August trip to Fort Worth, which I extended to spend time with my sister and her family. In March 2007 Sherry and I returned to Manila to teach a D. Min. course at the International School of Theology Asia. Then in May 2007 I made my first trip to Russia followed by my sixth visit to Odessa Theological Seminary. It was a deeply moving experience to spend a third time with that cohort of pastors. Our 2008 trip to Beirut was postponed by Hezbollah closing the airport and then cancelled by a cellulitis infection in my leg. That allowed our family reunion in the picture. It also gave me opportunity to do final editing on Vintage Church coming out in February. It will join Vintage Jesus and Death by Love in the series Mark Driscoll and I are co-authoring. We are now working on Doctrine: What the Church Should Believe. I have failed miserably in my goal to retire from teaching with no books in print! I hate writing, but am glad to see the impact the books are having in people's lives.

These days I blog at www.breshears.net. Grandgirl pictures show up often along with thoughts on all sorts of things.