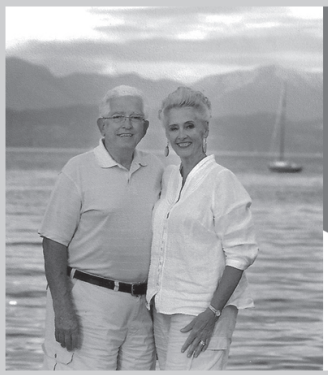

CSR MINISTRIES

Encouraging God's Ministering Servants

CARING · SERVING · REFRESHING

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FALL 2018

RENEWAL NEWSLETTER

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." – Philippians 1:3-5

Greetings, dear friends, supporters and family. The above Scripture describes exactly how we feel about all of you. Without your "fellowship in the Gospel" and your partnership in ministry, we would be challenged in our efforts to fulfill the heavenly calling on our lives. Thanks for trusting God in us. Thanks for supporting us when you do not know where we are or what we are doing and thanks for your faithfulness in walking with us. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

First, The Family

Since the celebration of my 80th birthday in 2017, family relationships and activities have moved to a new level, and we rejoice. Our grandson, Blake, and his wife, Shannon, have given us a new great granddaughter, Isabelle Rose Balcom. Born in Seattle on August 20th, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces. In 2018, I have performed the wedding ceremony for two more of our grandchildren. On April 7th I performed the wedding for Sanders Poe who married Valentina Urrego. Sanders is now on the pastoral team of 12 Stone Church, and Valentina is enrolled in law school. On May 27th I performed the wedding ceremony of our granddaughter, CeCe Balcom, to John Morris in Homer, Alaska. CeCe is an RN at Alaska Regional Hospital, and John is an M.D. We now have 36 in our immediate family with more to come. Our granddaughter, Amelia, and her husband, Jordan, are expecting their first child in March. In August, our granddaughter, Elizabeth, Holly's daughter, came from Montana for a ten day visit, and we loved every minute of it. Amy and Steve Poe came to Florence to join my 81st birthday celebration.

In May, Anne and I took an Alaskan Cruise which had been given to us by our family for my 80th birthday. It was everything we had dreamed of, plus more. We saw the beauty and grandeur of God's creation in a new and fresh way. While in Alaska, we celebrated the wedding of our granddaughter, CeCe, to John, and then went to Seattle and Montana to visit Robyn and her family, and Holly and her family. During the summer, we had a delightful visit from our daughter, Melody, and Bobby and Claire, our youngest granddaughter.

Newest member of the family, Isabelle Rose Balcom, born Aug. 22nd.

Our granddaughter, Elizabeth, from Montana visited us in Alabama.

Answering God's Call

In this season of our lives, I find it difficult to separate "ministry" from family and the other components of our lives. Our ministry encompasses all of our lives, and we consider all that we do a part of His purpose and destiny for our lives. In this season, we answer the question "What do you do?" with this response, "We do the next thing God tells us to do." Here are a few of recent activities:

- Anne and I continue to do our weekly radio program on WBTG FM, 106.3, "What on Earth Is God Doing?" We are told that we may have as many as 25,000 listeners. God has provided this wonderful platform for us, and we thoroughly enjoy it.

Anne & Elizabeth manning the registration table at the Tribe Quantum Worship Congress.

- Anne and I participated in the Tribe Quantum Worship Congress in the Shoals, August 22-25, lead by our dear friends, James and Colleen Nesbit.
- I continue to be a part of the small group of Grace House men who meet on Tuesday mornings at 6:30am. This has become a vital part of my weekly walk with Jesus.
- Anne, as co-leader of a Tuesday evening intercessors gathering, took a three-day prayer retreat in Kentucky with Charlotte Matthews and Pam Matthews.

continued inside...

Answering God's Call – continued...

• Anne and I took a ten-day ministry journey to Lubbock and Houston in August. In Lubbock, we attended the 71st Anniversary Campus Reunion at Texas Tech and the Broadway Church. We were a part of the campus ministry from 1966-1970. It was from Lubbock, that we launched Campus Evangelism, a national campus ministry in Churches of Christ. From Lubbock, we traveled to Amarillo, Texas to visit with our dear friends, Rex and Elizabeth Vermillion, co-founders and co-leaders of Campus Evangelism. It was delightful to re-connect with the Vermillions and to reflect on those exciting years of CE. We then traveled to The Woodlands, Texas, where we had a great time visiting our dear friends, Don and Madeline Soula, former board chairman of CSR Ministries. Our final stop was in Fresno, Texas, where we visited with dear friend and CSR board member, Rose Ann Summers. All of those visited are special to us.

• Anne and our granddaughter, Elizabeth, visited the Christian Gift and Art Gallery in Dalton, Georgia, on their way to the Nashville Airport. This is the place where oil is supernaturally flowing from an open Bible. Anne and Elizabeth saw it with their own eyes. Thousands of bottles of this anointing oil have been distributed across the world. The oil still flows. I believe it symbolizes the "marriage" between the Word and the Spirit.

• In recent weeks, I have preached at The Factory, The Dwelling Place, Grace House, and Mission 24 in Houston.

• I continue to lead a monthly group of "Sons of Fresh Oil." These are strategic men God has brought together in the Shoals. We are building relationships and seeking God as to how He would use us in seeing transformation come to our region.

• I, Jim, continue to make an occasional video post on Facebook. Thanks to those of you who have responded.

Jim and Anne with Rex and Elizabeth Vermillion, co-directors of Campus Evangelism. Also pictured are L.D. McCoy and Mike McAllister, campus ministers at Texas Tech during Campus Evangelism.

Having Dinner with our good friend and CSR board member, Rose Ann Summers.

Jim in front of the Broadway Church in Lubbock, where we served in the '60s.

Jim preaching at Mission 24 Church in Houston, TX

Book store in Dalton,GA where oil is flowing from the Bible

Inside the Red River Meeting House, Logan County, Kentucky

Anne and friends, Pam Matthews and Charlotte Matthews, in Kentucky for a 3-day prayer retreat. This is the Red River Meeting House where Revival broke out in the 1800's that swept through the original colonies.

Anne, Pam & Charlotte went down to the river to pray!

Jim and Rabbi Bowman at Bomb shelter event

Jim and Anne with Rabbi Shumel Bowman

The Israel Bomb Shelter Project

Early in 2018, we launched the Israel Bomb Shelter Project, an attempt to raise the $17,500 necessary to build a bomb shelter in one of the danger zones in Israel. This project came as a result of our meeting and spending the day with an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi, Shumel Bowman, while we were in Israel in late 2016.

This is a cooperative effort, partnering CSR Ministries with Operation LifeShield in Israel. Participants have included CSR donors, members of the Florence Rotary Club, members of Grace House, and other Shoals area churches, radio listeners, members of Bnai Israel Jewish Temple, Florence government leaders, young people from Union Hill Presbyterian Church, and folks from everywhere that love Israel and the Jewish people. Thus far we have raised close to $20,000, and contributions continue to come in.

The capstone of the project was when Rabbi Bowman came to the Shoals on Monday, July 30th. He spoke to a group of city and church leaders at a Leadership breakfast in the Mayor's office. At noon, Rabbi Bowman spoke to approximately 150 Shoals leaders at the Florence Rotary Club. We concluded the day with a public session led by Rabbi Bowman at the Gold Record Room of the Suntrust Bank.

Thanks to all of you who have already participated in this project. **There is still time for any of you to participate by sending your check made out to: CSR Ministries, P.O. Box 1555, Florence, AL 35631.** Please mark your check for: the bomb shelter project. The deadline for concluding the campaign and sending the money raised to Israel is December 15th. Anne and I are hopeful that the Lord will provide the finances needed to go to Israel for the dedication of the Bomb Shelter.

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ISRAEL BOMB SHELTER PROJECT ARE RECEIVING THIS ISSUE OF OUR OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Please let us know if you would like to continue receiving our newsletter. Use the enclosed envelope with a note or email us at: jim.bevis@csrministries.org, if you would like to continue receiving our newsletter. Otherwise, you will receive only this issue.

A Personal Victory Over Anxiety

Earlier this year, I, Jim, began to have attacks of anxiety come against me which concerned both Anne and I. The frequency of these attacks continue to increase causing sleep problems, fear and a racing mind. For weeks, I sought God for a solution. I was not immobilized, but my life and ministry were feeling the effects of this attack, which I felt was both physical and spiritual.

In my search, the Lord took me to Psalms 103:1-5 and Philippians 4:4-7. As a result of my meditation on these passages, two phrases emerged. From Psalm 103, God underlined the phrase "and forget not all His benefits," and from Philippians 4:6 the sentence, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving." The Lord revealed to me that during and prior to these attacks I had forgotten the many benefits of the Lord. From that point on when I would feel the anxiety approaching I would begin to praise the Lord and re-count His benefits.

It worked, and I am experiencing victory over anxiety. The "clincher" of my victory was a anonymous blog that my son-in-law, Steve Poe, shared with me. It was so impacting I am sharing it with you.

AN ANONYMOUS BLOG ON ANXIETY

Yesterday was a very difficult day for me. I have found that when I feel really down, I am blinded to everything God has done for me, every prayer He has answered, every desire of my heart He has granted, everything He has blessed me with, provided, spared me from, delivered me from, changed my perspective toward, set me free from, ways He has restored me, ways He has protected me, every time He made a way out of a bad situation, relationship, or friendship. His faithfulness to take care of me in every way, the godly friendships He has blessed me with, the ways He has enabled me to grow as a Christian, and so much else, simply because I feel down and am so wrapped up in fear and anxiety about what I think is going to happen or think won't happen. I am blinded to everything God as done for me and at the moment (or hour or day or week) I feel down, do not acknowledge, keep in mind, remember and dwell on the fact that my life in its entirety is in God's hands. He is perfectly aware of everything I desire, and His character as described in the Bible is good, faithful and trustworthy. Life can really get us down if we allow our negative, fearful, stressful and worrisome thoughts to run away with us.

Books We Recommend

Anne and/or I have read several books recently that we recommend:

1) *The Masterpiece* by Francine Rivers, Tyndale House Publishers. "A probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect yet stunning masterpiece."

2) *Poured Out* by Leonard Allen, Abilene Christian University Press. Leonard Allen, Dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University, has written a powerfull book on the Holy spirit explaining why the church has limited the Spirit for so long, and how you can come to know the Spirit better and more fully.

3) *Ready to Wed*, by Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley, published by Tyndale House, "12 ways to start a marriage you'll love." The best book we've ever read for couples getting married. It will bless every marriage, young or old. It blessed our marriage.

4) *The Unlocking Effect*, by Jamie Scroggins. Self published. "A look into the life of Nehemiah and a practical guide to unlocking the glory of God in you, your family and your city." It is one of Anne's favorite books. Order on Amazon or by purchasing at: www.jamiescroggins.com.

May our Lord continue to bless you as you allow Him to live His life through you.

Please, don't forget to visit our website at **www.csrministries.org**.

Prayerfully and Expectantly,

Jim and Anne

Anne's Notes

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you something that weighs heavily on my heart, **mid-term elections, November 6th**. Someone has said that this will be the most important election in the history of the United States. The seats of 35 U.S. Senators and all 430 seats of the House of Representatives will be up for re-election, plus the seats of 36 Governors.

In this election, voters will decide whether we continue to go forward in making this nation what God wants it to be, or re-versing all of the good that has been done in the past 18 months.

In Alabama, all seats in the Alabama Senate and House will be up for re-election. In addition a very important and historic proposed admendment to the Alabama Constitution will be on the ballot. This is an amendment that will allow the posting of the 10 Commandments in public schools and government buildings. It has taken 17 years to get this proposed Amendment on the ballot. **THIS IS THE YEAR** for Alabama to pass the amendment and set the pace and precedent for this happening in other States. There has been virtually no information shared about this strategic amendment.

For more information go to:

www.tencommandmentsamendment.com

The Body of Christ must rise up, show up, and **VOTE** in the November 6th election. Many prophetic words have been given over Alabama in recent years identifying Alabama as the "thicket clearer, forerunner, and the justice state." We must let our voice be heard.

Anne

HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US

Continue to pray for:

- our health, especially protection from falling and other accidents.
- our family, now 36 in number including four daughters, eleven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.
- our ability and determination to hear the Lord's voice and follow His leadership.
- hurting and wounded pastors and ministers across the nation.
- additional funds to come in, above our budget, to allow Anne and I to return to Israel in 2019.
- additional funds needed, on a monthly basis, to fund CSR.

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN PRAY FOR YOU

Contact us at (256) 335-8288 - or - (256) 443-2134 - or - jim.bevis@csrministries.org - or - anne.bevis@csrministries.org - or - 207 N. Sequoia Blvd., Florence, AL 35630

WILL YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER?

We ask that you consider adding CSR to your monthly support list or, if you are already supporting us, we are deeply grateful. We are still lacking in having enough funds in CSR to pay the 1/2 salary, ministry travel, insurance, office supplies, and monthly payment for the CSR vehicle. All donations are tax deductible.

We would deeply appreciate having an email address for each of you. Either email it to us, or send it to us in the enclosed envelope. Feel free to write your email address on your CSR contribution check.