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2024 is almost here...



I can't believe it is December 31, 2023 - Yikes!!! This past month has been a bit of a blur, starting with a ruptured appendix and surgery on November 30 that sidelined me for about 10-days. While it took some time for me to heal, I have completely recovered and don't ever need to worry about having appendicitis again ;) Following that I took a 12-hour road trip to Michigan with my sister (and my two cats) to spend a couple weeks in Michigan for Christmas with my dad, siblings and their families. And now it is New Years Eve and I'm spending a quiet evening in front of the fire looking back at 2023 and forward toward 2024.

My Global Capacities ministry took a backseat in 2023. In February 2023 I took a full-time job with Boyum Barendseer as an accountant - I never planned on being an accountant, but the job is actually a really good fit for me. This dramatically reduced the time I could devote to direct ministry. While I didn't do any international travel in 2023 I have continued to serve and support The Palm Branch and their workers and ministries in Turkey, South Asia, Africa (Malawi, Tanzania, Liberia), Israel, and Honduras. In addition, I was able to volunteer with conference educating on preventing human trafficking and support GHI and some of their ministries with youth and children. My heart has not changed, I still love Jesus, missions and God's workers around the world.

My Global Capacities ministry is still active, but now all donations given go exclusively toward ministry expenses (travel, project costs, and the needs of others). Thank you for your generous, faithful, and sacrificial giving. I am so grateful for your friendship and commitment to me and the work God has given me to do over the years. I hope to

continue to take trips and I will continue to share as God allows me to travel to encourage and support other workers around the world.

So what does 2024 hold? What does 2024 look like? The couple of words that come to mind are **CHANGE** and **TRUST**. If you know me at all, I'm a creature of habit and change is not my favorite thing, in fact change scares me. I like routine (that is why a job as an accountant is good for me) and I don't like the unknown. But I trust God's leading more than I dislike change. Earlier this fall I sensed God directing me to move back to Michigan, to move back near family. Now I haven't lived in Michigan since I graduated from U of M in spring of 1989 - yes, 35-years ago.

So the plan in 2024 is to sell my townhouse and move to Ypsilanti, Michigan and in with my dad. I am grateful I will be able to keep my job and just transition to working fully remote. While the timeline is fluid, and there is lots yet to do, the move will likely happen in February or March 2024. I've been here in Minnesota almost 14-years now, and it is hard for me to think of leaving. I would appreciate your prayers during all of this change, transition, and good-byes. Pray that my house would sell effortlessly.

Pray that I would continue to walk in faith and trust God through it all. A friend sent me a devotional earlier today that encapsulates my request during this time, "**Give me the grace to keep my heart connected to you (God) and to ignore the fear.**"

Thanks so much for your prayers and friendship, without you I couldn't do the things God has led me to do. Have a BLESSED NEW YEAR and may 2024 be filled with more blessings than you can count.

Love and Blessings,
Jill

p.s. one last, but very important, prayer request. Please pray for my friends' 4-year son Samuel (Sammy). On October 20, 2023 he was diagnosed with a rare version of leukemia. He is now two months into eight months of treatment. The treatment is working against the cancer, but that doesn't make the chemo (and its side-effects) any easier on him, or his family. If you would join me in uplifting Sammy and his family in prayer for complete healing and eradication of the cancer, it would be so appreciated.



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