

THE LAWRENCE LOG

June 19, 2018

Hello Family and Friends,

Here we are half way through the year, and its time for an update.



In January, we traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to take a course called Member Care. This three-week course is offered around the world by Youth with A Mission. The class focuses on the importance of the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical health of each staff member on a mission's base, or

anywhere, for that matter. It's an accredited course and we were required to complete assignments (the first one Rod has written in 40 years!) and participate in small group activities. It was very interesting and worthwhile, as we know people working in full time missions, often neglect taking care of themselves.

We also had the opportunity to do some sightseeing. What a beautiful part of this country! The history was amazing and heartbreaking! Upon our return, we were to present and implement member care plans that we designed specifically for our staff at Gleanings. That has not happened yet and I will tell you why in the next paragraph.



In February, I (Colleen) started to go through a time of depression and anxiety. It was a dismal time for me, as I sought God, and healthcare professionals, for help and hope. I was unable to do much on campus for four months. Finally, in May I received help from mental health providers. I am doing better, and trying to navigate my way successfully through this very scary time. Rod tried so hard to be supportive, but I know it was a difficult time for him as he walked alongside me. Often, he just held me while I cried, asking God why?

We (Rod, Kaleigh and I) decided to make a trip to Canada in May to see our son Kent, other family members and friends. It was a wonderful time away, but I really did not want to return, as I still wasn't in a great place mentally. I was certainly somewhat better, but still wasn't where I wanted to be. I didn't want to return here to my home at Gleanings, to the place where I had spent many lonely and dark days. Thankfully, shortly thereafter, I started to improve. God works in



many different ways, in ways I often don't understand. I am getting back on my feet with the help of medication. I am so thankful I have improved. I know many of you were praying for me, and I am so grateful for that!

Kent is doing well in Kelowna, B.C. He continues to work in the construction industry and enjoys living in the Okanagan

Valley. He is finding Jesus and contentment in each day. He is growing into such a fine young man! We couldn't be more proud of him! We miss him like crazy!

Kaleigh just completed her second year of university. She is home for the summer and working at the Visalia District Attorney's Office. She is interning in the office that is in charge of Victim Services. Kaleigh is also taking a summer course at a

local college, getting one more basic course under her belt! She's a world changer!!

So...here we are at the beginning of fruit season! I love this time of year because approximately 1000 young people descend on this place with all their energy and excitement; to be a part of something much bigger than themselves. They are eager to work, so that others around the world may live! Their noise, laughter and many shenanigans are so welcome! Speaking of young people, we are pleased that the back packers from all over the world keep coming! They are such delightful people!

Thank you for all your love, friendship, prayers, care, interest and support, as go into our 14th year here at Gleanings for the Hungry!

All our love,
Rod and Colleen



We would love to hear from you!!!

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