



Dear praying friends,

Our two-month sabbatical is complete. Holly and I are refreshed and have spent much time with the Lord and each other. We listened, learned, read, prayed, walked, talked, hiked, caught up on home projects, delighted in God's creation, memorized Scripture, enjoyed spiritual disciplines (solitude, silence, simplicity, Sabbath, slowing), unplugged the TV, and I ran and climbed and did scuba diving (exercise is part of how I renew.)

We also made many **discoveries** we are excited to implement in days to come. For example, many times, I've prayed wise king Solomon's words in [Psalm 127:1](#), "*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*" But God challenged me during this time, unless the Lord builds the ministry, Eric, you can work till you drop dead and it will all be in vain. I appreciated His reminder to **trust more in Him than in myself** and my efforts. From some books I read, I was encouraged to fight the encroachment of tech in my life, for example shutting my phone off at 9pm and not turning it on till after my morning devotions are done. Holly reflected on her ministry and was challenged to be more intentional and focused in targeting specific areas of prayer.

[Read more about RENEW HERE](#), and a recent [ministry highlight from Holly HERE](#).

BUT I must confess that I am delighted to be back to work. Although I had to do some ministry work while on sabbatical, we are again fully engaged in what God has called us to do. **Please pray** with us for God's blessing on **upcoming ministry activities**:

Oct. 26-27 – Yacolt, Washington. Lead missions conference and preach.

Nov. 1-2 – Olympia, Washington. Train 25 pastors and ministry leaders in Pathways workshop #1.

Nov. 3 – Poulsbo, Washington. Preach at partner church.

Nov. 11-18 – Blantyre, Malawi. Train pastors with workshop #4 (Genesis) with partner Randy.

Dec. 6-15 – Cairo, Egypt. Launch two new networks training Egyptians and Sudanese with partner Mark.

Dec. 22 – Olympia, Washington. Preach Christmas message at our home church.

Thank you again, dear friends, for your faithful prayers during this important time. We appreciate you!

Pressing on, *Eric and Holly*

