

It's a New Year and we are inclined to pause and reflect, aren't we?! To look back with thoughts and words that help us evaluate the stories unfolding before us. I just bought my new 2018 calendar book and I am writing in our family's birthdays and anniversaries. In the process, of course, I am using my 2017 calendar to copy down dates --- so it's a time of reflecting on what happened last year. I use my calendar often to make notes about things I want to remember --- so it's a great place for my "notable quotes". At the top of the month of March I wrote --- "*He invited me into Holy weakness*". Wow --- I'd never thought of weakness as being "Holy" --- but it's not a surprising "notable quote" as God was preparing us for May 9th when Paul started his first round of Chemotherapy. He has never really been "weak" before --- so this was a new area and journey for him --- for us. On October 6th he had the last of his six treatments and November 6th the surgery for the non-cancerous mass in his throat. We are so thankful that the treatments were successful and he is doing very good --- how thankful we are to be on this side of it all! Another quote that I'd written down during that time was --- "*God's grace is unsurmountable, incalculable, past immense, enormous, measureless*" --- and it was God's grace that brought us through those days!!! Thank you so much for upholding us before the Almighty --- for intervening on our behalf! How we appreciate your love and concern!

Naturally --- we wonder what the new year will bring. As I fill out my 2018 calendar I can't help but wonder what new things God is going to bring into our lives! A "notable quote" that I just read was --- "*We look back with nostalgia for all that has gone by, but hopefully we've gained wisdom that we can carry into the new year ahead of us. We look forward with hope and expectations --- sometimes with fear, sometimes with determination and a certain amount of excitement.*"

That "*determination and excitement*" is definitely how Paul is facing this new year! He is so glad to be (mostly) rid of the "chemo brain" that was so thick during his treatments and now together with the other men on the leadership team, is deciding where he can best fit in and use his years of experience. Basically --- his role will not change --- he will continue to be a part of the leadership team here at the Missionary Training Center, serving, coaching and encouraging our leaders and staff members.

Back in April another "notable quote" caught my heart --- "*Praying for the sacred potential in each one*". There are eighty-three Missionary Candidates returning to the campus right now to begin their final semester in their training as career missionaries --- they are all fired up to begin classes on Monday. Fifty of those trainees will be graduating in the Spring and begin the next step in their journey toward reaching the unreached around the world. Pray with us and for us as we seek to train and prepare these young people! There is such --- "*sacred potential*"!

For myself --- as I read through the events of last year the unmistakable message of "God's faithfulness" shouted at me as I looked at my notations of the day's events. Intermingled with scheduled appointments and events were my "pain levels". Here and there I note that "it's been a rough day". But God is faithful and here we are on this side of it --- looking back and praising Him for the courage and strength He gave for each day. I hope you can do the same!!!

"Whether looking back or looking forward, the presence of a loving God is both kind help and crucial hope"!!!

We Love and appreciate you!!! Thank you SO much for your financial support!!!! You are such a vital part of our ministry and we hope you know that we could never be here without you on our team!!!! How I wish that I could write you personally but that is no longer possible! Just --- please know how much we thank God for you!!!

Paul and Faith Wyma

Serving with Ethnos360 (Formerly New Tribes Mission)