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*by*  
**Gilda**  
**Health Report**  
*by Dale*

**Questions & Answers****What's New...**

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**Still Here**

Jul 2013

Sorry it has been so long since the last newsletter, but 2013 started off a bit stressful and the Riddles are still attempting to get back to normal. Dale and Gilda were on vacation with Dale's sister, brother and their spouses when he passed out on Valentine's day, February 14. Dale's younger brother Kent did CPR and brought him back around. Dale was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was given a battery of tests including heart catheterization and released after about 24 hours the following evening. The doctors could not find a specific cause for his passing out but told Dale to see his cardiac doctor as soon as he got home. The hospital sent all the tests they had done for the cardiologist. The cardiologist did not see any problems but wanted Dale to see one other cardiologist who had been taking care of his atrial fibrillation. The next doctor saw something and told Dale he would have to see a surgeon. He said his aortic valve was bad. A week later Dale saw the surgeon and he asked the doctor how long he thought he could live if he didn't have the problem fixed. (Dale had already decided if he could live 10 years he would just take his chances and not have the surgery.) The doctor said, emphatically, he might have a year to a year and a half. With that information Dale decided to have the surgery to replace his aortic valve and a maze of procedures to get rid of atrial fibrillation. As this newsletter is being written Dale is doing great and appears to be on the road to full recovery.

A special thanks to all those who prayed, sent cards, made visits, brought food and generally let Dale and Gilda know that they were going to be with them through this experience. Friends and family are always important, but when the difficult times come you realize even more how special they are.

**The Work Goes On**

Jul 2013

When you get ill, you begin to wonder how all the plans that have been made will be accomplished without you. We tend to view our work as very important and that it is necessary for us to be there to see it through. I had to cancel some revival meetings and that was hard because in 36 years I have only cancelled one meeting due to illness. Then there was the mission trip to Honduras. I have been working in Honduras for more than 10 years, and Gilda and I were excited to be returning. I asked my doctor if I could put off surgery until I returned from Honduras. He said I could go. However, he said I would be left over there in a grave or brought home in a box. So, I decided maybe I should not try to go this year. The work was already set up and we encouraged the rest of the team to go on without us. We found another couple who were willing to take our place so the ten member team was still intact even though Gilda and I couldn't be a part of the adventure this year. Well, to make a long story short, the team had a wonderful experience, did lots of construction, worked with children, had evangelistic services and many people trusted Christ, fed the poor and other things. No one missed a beat and Gilda and I were so thrilled that everything was such a great success. I guess I did sense a bit of humility when I discovered that the work goes on with or without me. I think it is good to be reminded from time to time that I am not nearly as important to the Lord's work as I might think. I have always known that, but sometimes, I forget. Thank you, Lord, for the reminder that you are greater than any plans or any person and that your work continues no matter what happens. It is just a blessing to be included in the things that you are doing and a joy to be allowed to be a small part of your work.

At this time I am not able to sing or preach because of coughing. The doctors said it would be about 6 months before I fully recover, so I hope to be ready for revivals this fall. Check out website for our schedule.

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