



A Narrow Escape

Bill Jenkin III, CBM President

"I narrowly escaped death!" This is a statement I've humorously used for many years in exaggerated, non-threatening situations. But recently, with my trial with septic shock, this statement has become a reality. I have been thinking and spiritually evaluating, and I want to share with my CBM family. A brief overview will help as I praise the Lord and endeavor to share some of my musings.

Terri and I flew to Montana on Saturday, December 8. I had a rough night in the motel but by morning I felt better and preached in Dixon, an hour northwest of Missoula. After lunch, we drove 150 miles southeast to the cabin where we turned the water on and built a roaring fire to warm the cabin up. Still not feeling well, I figured a good night's sleep would help. But by mid-morning on Monday, I decided to head to the ER in Anaconda. An EKG was normal but additional bloodwork revealed that I had a heart attack within the last three days. They took me by ambulance to St. Pats in Missoula where they installed three stents. Two days later Terri picked me up and we returned to our Triple Creek cabin. I was able to preach that Sunday in Whitefish, the following Sunday in Anaconda, take walks in 8" of snow, and do a bit of chopping. Thankfully, there is very little damage to my heart (the doctors called it a minor heart attack).

We flew back to Michigan early Christmas Day and spent 18 hours at home before driving to Florida. Besides attending a wedding, I was scheduled to preach in two churches, meet with pastors, host a fund-raising luncheon, meet with donors, and take two weeks of R & R.

Feeling great on Friday morning, December 28, I went for a two-and-a-half mile walk in the woods. I picked a mushroom, and as I have done in the past (in Montana, Alaska, Minnesota, and Germany), gave it my

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standard test for edibility. Two hours later I was violently ill. Terri tried to keep me hydrated as I spent the next 19 hours experiencing chills, terrifying evil hallucinations, and sweats. I stubbornly (yes, that's a confession) waited until Saturday before going to the ER. At that time my blood pressure was dangerously low and they began treating me for septic shock. My kidneys collapsed due to dehydration and the nurse told Terri they were pumping fluids into me at 90 miles an hour. Reports say 50% of people who get septic shock die. I narrowly escaped death—for real.

So, I have been thinking; I am thoroughly convinced that any confidence I have for life and ministry comes from the Lord. Before Christ, I had no confidence in myself and was terrified to even think of doing what now makes up my whole life. But I must wonder; why did I eat that poisonous mushroom? Was it because I didn't check with the Lord? I wouldn't have heard an audible voice, but perhaps a check in my spirit that said, *Don't do that, you knucklehead*. And here's my big question to myself—is it possible that my confidence in the Lord somehow malfunctioned and bore the fruit of arrogance and pride? And it gets worse—if it is true of eating a mushroom, could it extend to my ministry? To my preaching? To my soul-winning?

While I don't have any concrete answers, I am reminded of Paul's warning: **Have no confidence in the flesh** (Phil. 3:3). And, **Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus** (Phil. 3:13-14).

—Bill

Birthdays

- 1 Kathryn Manes (20)
- 5 Jim Hill
- 6 Joanne Hoff
- 7 Kayla Taylor (18)
- 10 Terry Epperly
Sandy DeGrow
- 11 Pam Knauf
- 13 Marlon Epperly
Jeanette Speckhart
- 15 Mark Mulder
- 17 Caleb Schroder (13)
- 18 Stella Mattison
Jennifer Tylavsky
- 21 Marie Wightman
- 22 Ed Bunt
- 28 Mary Kreiser

Anniversaries

- 9 Henning (57)
- 10 Reed (68)
- 29 Kløver (27)

Women Mentoring Women

by Terri Jenkin

Learn of Him!

If we could just read His Word, believe it, and obey it then God would not have to teach us through life experiences. These past two months have been one long life lesson of trusting God, not knowing the 'whys' of it all.

A heart attack and mushroom poisoning were not part of our plan, yet God allowed them. They took us by surprise, but as Bill often says, "Nothing takes God by surprise." **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works** [works that are profitable for us], **which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them** (Ephesians 2:10). Happenings in our life are not by accident.

We rejoice in several specific blessings: The heart attack happened after we arrived in Montana, allowing Bill to enjoy the cabin while recuperating. In Florida, we were staying with a friend only 3.7 miles from the medical center. Bill only missed one scheduled preaching opportunity and was able to fulfill all other obligations. The two weeks of R & R were planned months before knowing our need for them.

I am fortunate to have a strong husband and to see him struggle

health-wise was hard. Humanly-speaking, he is my protector and provider, however, ultimately God is the One to meet my needs. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you** (John 15:7).

I recently heard Bill say, "Terri's a strong woman." I thought to myself, yes, *I am* – not boasting, but understanding that in myself I am not strong, but because Christ abides in me I can say as the Psalmist:

***I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.***
(Psalms 18:1-2)

I have no doubt God will continue to give me—and you—opportunities to learn of Him. May we find the answers to those lessons in His Word!

Terri

CBM Prayer Concerns—

Aja Long is recovering from gall bladder surgery

Tom Dolph (Emeritus Board) has entered hospice care

Brian Vince's home dialysis

Budd Norman & Jenell Lozier as they undergo radiation treatments

Missionary Kids (MKs)

Our Nation & Our Leaders

Our Military Men & Women

Laborers for the Harvest

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Directory Updates

If you've recently moved or had a change in your contact information (email, phone, etc.), please email valerieh@GoCBM.org with your updates. New directories will be available in March.

THANK YOU!

With the Lord...

Rev. Alton "Al" Glazier was welcomed into the presence of the Lord on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at the age of 95. Brother Al was born and raised in Cortland, New York, and served in combat during World War II. He came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior in December of 1946 and dedicated his life to serving Him. Over the years, Al was used of God in church planting and pastoral ministries, as well as serving for a time with the Galilean Baptist Mission. In August of 1988, Al and his wife, Sally, were approved for missionary service with CBM as Associate Church Planters. The Glaziers ministered at Allen Baptist Church in Allen, Michigan, until their retirement in July of 1998. Al is survived by Sally, his dear wife of 33 years, several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Litchfield, Michigan, on Friday, April 12, 2019.