



August 24, 2022

Dear Faithful supporters,

This year has been a whirlwind so far. Most of you that follow us on facebook have been caught up on our major life events, but sitting behind a computer to put together a synopsis of what has happened in our lives has been a struggle. Just after our last prayer letter our daughter, Alethia, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, b-cell. We started treatment right away and have been commuting up to Manhattan at least twice a week for chemo, physical and occupational therapy, and immunotherapy. So far thankfully she has done well, better than expected. She has made it through 6 rounds of chemo and immunotherapy and is in the middle of her toughest chemo round. So far this round she has received four chemo drugs. One directly into her spine after a spinal tap, and an iv chemo, an oral chemo and chemo shot to take before bed. They expect that her counts will bottom out this week and she likely will need a transfusion. A lot of kids struggle this round the most, so I ask you all to please lift up Alethia up. Pray that even if her counts drop, that she will not get any type of infection. With no immunity at all, the biggest danger this round is infections that her body will not be capable of fighting. As far as on the church side of things, we are continuing serving and ministering. Elizabeth's ministry looks a little different currently because she cannot stay at the church with Alethia if her counts are low, so we have been leaving Alethia and Zion in the office while Elizabeth comes in to play for the song service. Then they go home and Hezekiah stays at the church with Dad. If her counts are good, then we all stay and minister as normal. We have had many new people attend lately and it has been a blessing to see God still sending people our way during this different time in ministry.

Eventually, we plan to take a month break and have someone fill in for us. This year has been not only physically straining on our family, but it has been emotionally and mentally straining. It has tested our faith, marriage, and walk with God. But as much as we know we need a small break, it is not easy to just allow someone to fill in for more than a week. We are praying that God gives us complete peace about timing and the details so we can focus on our children and marriage while not having to worry about if our church is being taken care of properly. We are waiting on God to direct and praying for energy, comfort, peace, and a calming that only He can give in the meantime.

At the beginning of her diagnosis, Elizabeth had to quit teaching piano to be with Alethia full time. That cut our income by \$1,500 monthly. Many people gave and we have been able to keep up so far with all the extra bills and expenses. That money given will most likely run out next month and we will be faced with the decision of her taking on her teaching commitment again, or praying God supplies finances another way in the meantime while she continues treatment. Elizabeth plans to start teaching at least half of her students again starting in February when Alethia is in Maintenance phase and only has to go to the hospital once a month (as long as we have no hiccups.) Would you please pray along side of us that God would provide the income we need to carry us through to at least February? Tolls alone have been between 300-500 dollars a month. She has some medical bills and supplies, food requirements, gas, travel food expenses, and parking in Manhattan (we do get vouchers for some of the parking, but if we have a midnight emergency trip or inpatient stay we pay out of pocket.) I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God will provide and carry us through. He has already done it so far. He has been so good to us!

Prayer requests would be:

1. Alethia to be healed
2. Elizabeth to have an impact at the hospital.
3. Hezekiah Broke his arm 2 months ago, so for complete healing for his arm.
4. Financial needs to be met
5. Our boys are struggling in their own way with everything that is happening with their sister.

Please pray that they are encouraged and keep their eyes on God.

6. For our marriage. We have met so many families here broken apart after a child is diagnosed with cancer, we do not take that lightly and recognize that we will have to put more effort than ever before into our marriage. Please pray that God will keep us united and faithful to Him and each other.

7. For our church. Some people left. They could not handle the pain of watching Alethia struggle. It breaks our heart and we do not want our church to suffer as a result of our trial. Please pray that God does an amazing work in our church.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. We are sorry it has taken us longer than normal to write a prayer letter this year and will try to update you on her progress more often. Elizabeth updates facebook regularly on how treatment is going, so if you have facebook, then follow her for the quickest updates. Thank you.

In Christ,

David and Elizabeth Wilt.

