

February 2023

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (1 Peter 5:6–7)

As long as we are in this broken world, we will carry burdens. No one is immune. But the Apostle Peter provides some helpful instruction to alleviate whatever burden you may be shouldering right now. Notice the key phrases... *“The mighty hand of God”* refers to God’s power and sovereignty demonstrated on behalf of the Children of Israel when he parted the Red Sea, provided for them, and protected them. The phrase *“casting your care”* literally means to reject, thrust or hurl away your anxieties onto Christ. *“He careth for you”* means to “give careful forethought.” As we choose to humble ourselves and acknowledge God’s power and sovereignty, we will be motivated to reject anxiety and fear. We will then be able to receive His peace that He offers. Think about this: our Father has intricately designed the burdens He has permitted in our lives, but His care and mercies are new every morning to enable us to face that burden with the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. Take heart, my friend, *“...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

Our hearts are filled with gratitude every morning as we see the sun rise on the property that God has provided for SICM. What an incredible way to begin 2023! During this first month, the Lord has begun to broaden our understanding of His vision for Selah International. A few counselees have stopped by to see the Selah Home and they are so encouraged to know there will be a safe place where hurting ministry leaders can find healing. We are planning to host our very first missionary family on the property the first week of March. There are some interior modifications on the two structures that must be done in order to host multiple families at the same time and meet current standards. Please pray this work will be completed efficiently and quickly. A huge thank you to several individuals who have seen the great need for consistent sustainable income for SICM and have committed to monthly support to help with the ongoing operational needs of the new property. What an incredible blessing you are to us!

We praise the Lord that we have a full schedule of ongoing virtual counseling. We are NOT praising the Lord for the brokenness, but we DO praise Him that they are willing to get help! Some of the issues are uncontrollable circumstances that have led to much suffering, some are deeply rooted sin, some are the result of poor decisions, and all involve some type of spiritual warfare. My dear brothers and sisters, intercessory prayer is always our greatest need. Thank you, prayer warriors!

We also deeply appreciate your prayers as we enter a busy travel schedule both in the states and internationally.

- February 10-12 - Family Weekend at Victory Baptist Church in Sylva, NC
- February 17-19 - Marriage Retreat and Family services at Eastside Baptist Church in Thomasville, GA
- February 22-26 - Missions Conference at Providence Baptist Church in Springfield, TN
- March 11-18 - Two conferences in Ixtlan del Rio, Nayarit, MX & in the Ebenezer Bible Institute & Seminary (Hermosillo, MX)
- March 19 – Sunday morning service (Spanish and English) in the Iglesia Evangelica Bautista in Phoenix, AZ

Big Announcement: 2023 Selah Refresh Retreat – November 9th – 11th

Our Annual Selah Refresh Retreat is designed to encourage and equip men and women in ministry. **It will be held this year at the Spring Hill Suites in Columbia, SC.** The Selah Refresh is distinct in that we combine powerful preaching, relevant counseling case studies, men’s and ladies’ guided prayer times, and encouraging fellowship with other ministry leaders from around the world. Everyone who attends will also walk away with over \$50 in counseling resources! Space will be limited. Pastors, why not bring your entire church staff and their wives? And church members, please pray about sponsoring ministry leaders from around the world. More information to come later this month!

In family news, Dawn and I are beyond excited to announce the birth of another grandchild! Annette Patricia Gideons came into this world on January 23rd. We praise the Lord for a safe delivery! This is grandbaby number seven. 😊 We are so very thankful for this gift of life.

Our prayer for each of you in 2023 is that you will experience the incredible peace that God will give as you choose to cast your deepest cares and anxieties on Him. We love and appreciate you!

Only by His Grace,
Chris Phillips

