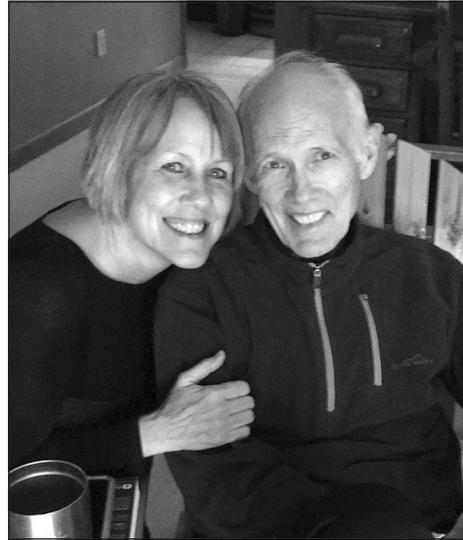


A Word From the Publisher

I guess I really just want to start by saying, "Thank you!" First of all, to God who allows me to do something I enjoy; and second to our readers and the many people who stop me (and Roger) and say how much they enjoy our paper. Your many words of encouragement are so precious and I take each of one to heart. If Roger is not with me, he's knows about my encounter when I get home. It touches my heart that you take time to read our paper. Lately, the best comment we have received is 'thanks' for putting a Bible verse on the front page. That idea came from my parents and I love it. Scary, but many times I pick out the verse that is talking to me at that particular time. The Bible has so many beautiful verses I'm pretty sure we won't ever run out! It is because of God that we have the privilege of publishing this paper. This New Year has been very difficult as we have had so many obituaries. My heart aches for the many people that have lost loved ones. But once again, God sends one of those precious people that have lost loved ones in here for extra copies and they are so thankful. I'm the one that has been blessed.

A couple of weeks ago, Roger and I drove my parents over to Ft. Walton Beach, where my oldest brother Dub and his wife Carol live. Dub has always been the one all we siblings look up to. He always had good grades, great job, no cavities, great shape...you know, perfect. Unfortunately, my sweet brother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October. Fortunately, they caught it early, but since the diagnosis he has had other health issues that have arisen. We went to visit with him in late October. That visit compared to our last visit, he was 90% better. His outlook and color was so good. He had his 'real' smile back and was moving around all over the place. He and Roger walked over his yard a hundred times, designing what he wants to build in



his backyard. He has a long way to go but he continues to lean on God for direction. I'm so thankful he also serves our faithful and merciful God! We went to visit, but also because he was also having an outpatient surgery (not related to the cancer) on Friday. He was a little slow when he came home Friday but Saturday he was up and going again. He even went shopping. It was so wonderful to see my brother again as himself. Please keep him and Carol in your prayers!

I'm thankful we were able to take my parents and better yet for me to get to see him. You know, there are just times you have to move with your gut feelings. If there is something you want to do or someone you need to see, do it! Don't delay. You never know what tomorrow may bring. Life is so short and time is so precious. I really don't want to kill time! It's going fast enough. When an opportunity presents itself, you better take it. That opportunity may never be there again. As the Bible teaches us, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,*" Philippians 4:13. Because it is through His strength that I go on!

Have a blessed day!

Dawn S. West