

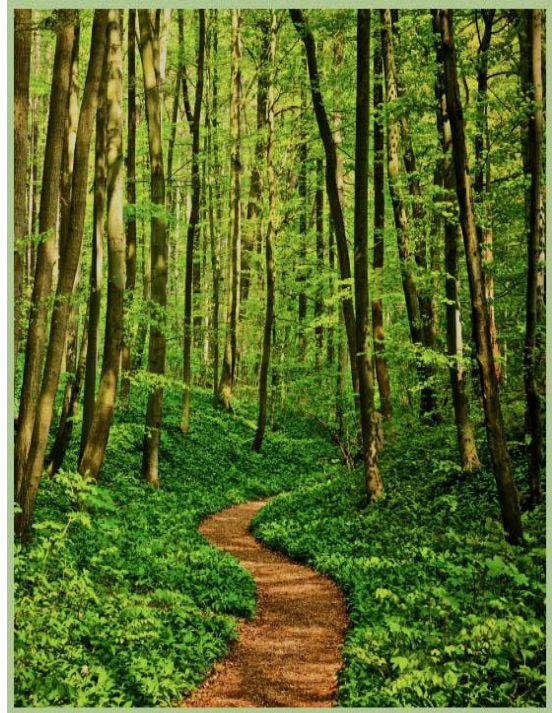
## Finding God's Pathway through this Pandemic

### Treasured Friends,

During all the years of our ministry **Isaiah 55** has been richly significant to us for so very many reasons. Now in the midst of this pandemic, it speaks its wisdom once again: "My ways are not your ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways." (vs 8-9)

We began 2020 with great expectations and three clear calls from God:

1. To mentor and disciple individuals,
2. To facilitate our Tuesday evening Home Group, and
3. To intercede for others, especially **Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto**, that sent us to the Mission Field in 1965 and this year, celebrates her 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Apart from those three ministry goals, we had three very personal longings as well: 1. We had never been able to **fully unpack** all our boxes since moving in. 2. **Mary Anne** still owed a zillion **emails**, and 3. We longed for time to **write our Memoirs**.

### Then came the Pandemic

As we, like all of you, began to shelter in place, God focused our attention on the new path He had put before us. We needed to learn His new ways to do life and ministry. When our exercise classes went on zoom and church services began to stream online, it opened a whole new world of possibilities.

- **Jack** now mentors and disciples men in Minneapolis, Charlotte, Tucson, and Colombia.
- **Mary Anne** has learned to do prayer ministry and intercession on *WhatsApp* and *Zoom*.
- Since we do not yet attend church in person, we joined a preservice prayer meeting in Toronto, by conference call, and then attend the online worship service at Knox. We already felt called to pray for Knox, so this has given us a fantastic opportunity to be a part of the congregation.
- Our home group also meets on *Zoom*! You can see a few of us as we began to gather last Tuesday evening. **Alan** led a relevant study on "What is Truth?" in the midst of an era of lies.



### And what about our personal longings?

Sheltering in place has not only given us focused ministry time with others, but some much needed personal time as well:

We are now **fully unpacked** and were able to give away everything we don't need or don't use!

**Mary Anne** answered **ALL her emails** and has managed to keep up to date. (A small miracle!) But "the best is yet to come! **Please read on---**

## Our Newest Project

This “sheltering in Place” has also given us the opportunity to begin to **write our Memoirs!** We want to share with our family (and interested friends) God’s faithfulness to us over a life-time, and there is so much to tell! Besides what we can personally recall, we have gathered some remarkable historical resources. These include personal journals, Prayer Letters covering 61 years, and copies of the “Voelkel Support Team Letters” **Betsy Lee** faithfully and creatively penned each month, for 20 years!

**Please pray for us!** The challenge will be to **select key experiences** that would be meaningful to the reader and lift up the faithfulness of our loving God, as we humbly and honestly share both our weaknesses and joys. Together, we crafted a common timeline, but each of us will each tell our own story. A verse that has called us to this task for several years now, comes from Psalm 72:17-18:

*Since (our) youth O God, You have taught (us), and to this day (we) declare Your marvelous deeds. Even when (we are) old and gray, do not forsake (us), O God, until (we) declare Your power to the next generation, Your might to all who are to come.*

This is an exciting and time-consuming adventure! We long for your prayers for us as we write! We also pray for many of you. Let us know how we can pray for you more specifically in these times of change.



This brings our loving greetings to each one of you.

*Jack and Mary Anne*

**Tucson, AZ, August 28, 2020**

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