

March prayer letter 2017

Thank you all for your prayers and support during this time of pain, loss and missing Tricia my 49 year long helpmate and first love.

I'd like to make a personal note on each of these as I send them out, but am unable to because of time constraints. But you all have been a great help to our ministry this last year with your prayers and financial contributions. We could not have done it without you. (Tricia helping at the old museum. I loved it when she smiled at me while I talked. It encouraged me that she thought I was doing well)



I have taken over working with the two young women that Tricia led to the Lord and disciplined after they got out of juvenile justice center. (JJC) They have their ups and downs but continue to try to follow Jesus and His way. I am doing what I call "family coaching," to help them in their relationship with their boyfriends as well as their young toddlers. I am helping them to know how to discipline them from a biblical view point.

Many of them growing up were disciplined by their parents with beatings. So I'm trying to teach biblical discipline which is a light use of the rod of correction as talked about in Proverbs 22:15.

One of the young women was amazed when I told her never to use her hand to spank the toddler. I told her we always want the hands to be associated with love and caring not discipline. She accepted it right away and realized that that was very important.

I also am teaching them not to discipline in anger. They have been disciplined all their life in anger by their parents who are often druggies and criminals. I told them if they discipline their child in anger all they are teaching them is that when they get bigger they can hit and do angry things towards other people just as was done to them by their parents.

The two young women are very receptive to this and want to do the right thing. They never knew the proper type of discipline that the Bible talks about because their parents did not know.



We moved the museum to the end of the warehouse section that we were in before. It has almost the same square footage, but I have arranged it better so I have twice the amount of room. I can get 30 chairs lined up and have that many people for a family Omni Theater type presentation on



the white wall. (Photo on left is looking from the front to the back of the room. The other is from the back looking to the front wall which is our 12x12 foot screen and storage up above to the right.)

Friday and Saturday we had an open house. Friday we had 40 people Saturday about 18 people. They came to see the new facility and they were very excited about the possibility of coming again.

It has not been easy for me losing my Tricia but I know God wants me to continue on with the museum, JJC out each, and other aspects of our missionary endeavor. March 25 will be the fourth month that she's been gone. I still cry many times during the day as different things remind me of what we did together and what we cannot do now.

I some days feel a fog of pain from her loss, so I don't get as much done as I'd like to. I'm late getting these receipts out partly because of that. When I had the open house, I felt my loss greatly because Tricia had such good ideas for promoting the museum and our mission. I pray each day that God will help me think like Tricia thought on how to be able to reach the kids at JJC and the kids that come to the museum.

March 24 I fly to Minneapolis with Tricia's ashes for her final burial near her parents and grandparents. The memorial at Meadow Creek Church is on March 31. This is very difficult, too. It is one more time of letting her go. When she was dying the doctor said I needed to tell her it was OK to let go and go home to Jesus. But it was the hardest thing I ever had to say to her. I did not want to let her go. But I did not want her to be in pains as she had for over a year. Each day and each month there's one more thing I have to let go around the house, at the museum and in other situations. It is sad and emotional but I know I have to keep on going and carry-on in this life. I'm so glad she's with her friends, relatives and our child Jonathan who that have gone before us to heaven and that she is no longer in pain.

The hospital where Tricia died, sent this support letter saying they had counseling and would help me deal with my loss if I wanted help. This helped me greatly and I read it many time a day. They said:  
*"Grief is not a problem to be cured. It is simply a statement that you have loved someone. The pain of loss as a result of your love. This pain while it will lessen, Does not just go away. The intensity and frequency of your feelings will change over time and it will get easier, But the grieving process is about learning to live with your loss – not about getting the feelings to stop. The ups and downs after a loss are completely normal even while the emotions and experience of grief is unique for each person. Remember to extend grace to yourself and others during this time."*

Thank you again for your prayers and support and continued financial help so that we can keep the mission going. Even now I keep saying "we" meaning Tricia and me. I guess I'll keep saying that because I feel her words and ideas are with me and they help make this all work. Thank you again.

I did not know what to write this month, but God gave me the words and I hope they help you. Tricia was my editor and spell checker so I am on my own now so hope I got it alright.  
In Christ who is our resurrection. Russ

Special Prayer: One of our supporters was laid off and may not be able to help with support. (About \$400 a month) Also, with Tricia's passing, I lost her Social Security and about a third of her teacher pension so that is a another loss of about \$400 a month. Please Pray God will raise up others to help support our ministry.

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Many pictures poems and letters about Tricia are at my web site. [www.adventuresafaris.org](http://www.adventuresafaris.org)

If you want to make a tax deductible donation to help in our outreach make it to TCCSA and send to:  
TCCSA c/o Byron Twiss, 8100 32nd Ave. N., Crystal, MN. 55427