

From: Sue Seiferling

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The last months have been full of God's blessings in many ways. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in January, my first prayer was that God be glorified throughout the experience, and that He accomplish His good, acceptable and perfect will in my life. During the next weeks, there were two surgeries, first to remove the lump, and

when precancerous cells were found in the surrounding tissue, the entire breast was removed. Before the second operation, I asked permission of the surgeon to offer a prayer for him and the assistants in the operating room. They were surprised, but seemed to be grateful for the short prayer for God's blessing over their lives.

The cancer had not spread, and my only treatment has been a hormone suppressant. There have been no noticeable side effects, for which I'm grateful. After a short recovery time (about 2 weeks), I've been able to return to my regular class schedule. At the normal 3-month check-up a couple of weeks ago, the surgeon and oncologist found everything to be normal. Thank you for your concern and prayers.

Now, maybe you are wondering how a "retired" missionary spends her time. Let me just share with you a couple of days' activities. Yesterday morning I had a class in Colombia with a young woman who is struggling with arthritis. Her husband teaches in the Bible Institute where I taught for a few years. We are finishing a study on James, and she was interested in the "prayer of faith" found in the last chapter.

In the afternoon, there was a Bible study with about six women in another part of Colombia. We had a good time of sharing as we studied Romans 12:1-2 about how to know God's good, acceptable and perfect will for our lives. We have been studying Romans twice a month for over a year now, going verse-by-verse, and applying the truth to our lives. Then in the evening, there was a recorded session with women in many parts of Colombia, mostly pastor's wives. We are studying topics from Proverbs, and last night the subject was Friendship. After the recorded session, several women shared related experiences, and asked relevant questions. These sessions are published on social media, and several hundred people hear the lessons.

Today, there will be a small group session meeting at church. We are finishing a study on 1st Corinthians. It is exciting to share how the Lord is

working in each of our lives, pray together, and study His Word. Right after this class, I'll go on to another Bible study in an assisted-living center. About 6 ladies meet in one of the apartments for fellowship and prayer. We are studying how the Bible came to us. Then, this evening, there is a class scheduled with a recent widow. Her husband was a pastor, and she deeply misses both his presence and the ministry they had together. Most of our sessions deal with emotional issues, but we are also studying Hebrews. So there you have a run-down of a couple of representative days. I'd appreciate your prayers for continued good health, if that is God's plan for me, and for wisdom as I share His Word in many classes.

Now I'd like to encourage you with something I learned just last week, as I worked on a new verse-by-verse course on Isaiah. The text that impressed me is Isaiah 26:3, which says: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." That phrase translated "perfect peace" is actually in Hebrew *shalom*, *shalom*. That is, "peace, peace". When a word is repeated in Hebrew, it adds great emphasis, so what it means is great, extraordinary, comprehensive peace. *Shalom* peace is more than just absence of conflict, although that is part of the idea. It also includes: wholeness, health (physical, emotional, and spiritual), heart rest, preservation, and completeness. That is an amazing package of blessings we receive when we trust with all our heart in the Lord! I also learned that instead of greeting one another by asking "How are you?", many Jews use the greeting: "How is your peace (*shalom*)?" So, I'd like to end this letter with the Jewish greeting: "How is YOUR peace today?" My prayer for you is that you be filled with God's *shalom* peace today and every day.

Thinking of you with appreciation and joy,
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Retired from The Evangelical Alliance Mission, but still serving the Lord in
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