

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

// Timothy 2:2

THE FRUINS

Teaching the Faithful to Teach Others



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Dear Friends in Christ,

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" James 1:2-4.

So much has happened over the past three months that it is hard to know where to begin, but we praise the Lord for all that has taken place. The first few weeks of February 2024 kept us quite busy as we temporarily halted many of our ministry responsibilities in South Africa and continued preparations for furlough. One of the biggest tasks was to pack up all of our possessions and move everything to storage. By God's grace and with the help of dear friends, that job was accomplished. Then on February 18, after some emotional farewells, we began our long, 24-hour trip from Cape Town to Chicago. The Lord allowed us to get more rest than we expected throughout the flight, which helped greatly in reducing jetlag later. As we arrived at O'Hare Airport, collected our luggage, and walked to the exit, we were overjoyed to be greeted by some of our kids and our two grandkids.



One of our priorities in the first few months after returning to the States has been to address my health needs. Two days after we arrived in Wisconsin, I saw my doctor at the Veteran's clinic and got the process started for several other appointments with specialists. Unfortunately, one of those appointments is not scheduled until April 8th and since some of my symptoms have worsened, we decided it was wise to postpone all furlough meetings scheduled for April. We were supposed to visit seven churches located out east and down south but realized it would be a little too much for me at the time. We are truly thankful for each of those pastors who have been very understanding and supportive through our sudden change of plans. We know the Lord works all things together for good, and we trust Him to direct our path.

We all know how important it is to have a reliable vehicle, whether it be to travel back and forth to work, to the store, or to church. Our vehicle situation has presented several different trials over the past few weeks, which also contributed to our postponed meetings in April. We are very grateful to be able to lease a vehicle from a Christian ministry, so shortly after arriving in Wisconsin, we traveled by Amtrak to pick up our van. It is a 2003 van, but it has been very well kept and maintained. However, after using it for a week, we noticed some mechanical problems, so I took it to the garage to be checked out. After getting two estimates and opinions, the car's owner decided to go ahead and complete only the most urgent repairs. While the car was in the shop, it was necessary for us to rent a vehicle since we had a meeting about 200 miles away. I reserved a car on the Hertz app, only to show up at the rental office and be told they didn't have a car for me. Shortly afterward, a car was returned, and it was agreed that I could have that one. As I drove away, I noticed a dashboard light indicating that the air in one of the tires was low, but I thought I could add some air at home. However, the pressure continued to go down, so when I reached home, I called Hertz's emergency roadside service, who had AAA come, change the tire, and put on the spare donut. I was told to take the car to a different location and exchange it for another one. Well, long story short, a nail was found in the tire, for which I am being charged extra fees but contesting. However, we

have since returned all rental cars and are thankful to have gotten our leased van back. Please pray for our travels and that the ministry vehicle will persevere throughout our time in the States and even beyond.

Even though we are far from South Africa, our hearts and thoughts are still there. I continue to post the daily devotionals on the WhatsApp chat to encourage the church folks in their walk with the Lord. We have also been in contact with friends and try to keep up with the exciting news about the church building. Thank you very much for praying as the church pursued purchasing a building of its own. They became the new owners of the building at the beginning of the year but couldn't take possession of it until the first of March. Over the past month, men from the church have been communicating with an architect, tearing down some areas that were not to code, and trying to prepare the building so they can meet there soon. Since the building is in an industrial park, the church must obtain a permit from the local authorities as it is zoned for industrial use. No one expects this to be a problem, but it can take a few months to finalize the permit. It is a praise that the church has its own building, and it brings them one step closer to being autonomous and on their own.



While we have treasured the past three years ministering in South Africa, we admit that we were really looking forward to spending some time with our children once we returned for furlough. Helping remodel our son's condo has allowed me many hours to spend with Jonathon as we ripped out the floors and walls in the kitchen and one of the bathrooms. It has also been an eye-opening experience seeing the different code violations and lack of quality control we have encountered. Through each aspect of the job, I am realizing that I am not as young as I used to be (yes, none of us are). Despite doing many woodworking jobs and teaching carpentry in South Africa, it has been a while since I've done many of these types of skills on a regular basis, so I have been a little rusty and not only in my knees. 😊 Due to some unforeseen things, the project has not progressed as fast as we had hoped, but we praise the Lord for all that has been done so far. We also admit that it has been a great joy to experience being grandparents, day by day, and getting to know Obi and Ashley face to face. Since we live in the same condo complex, we are privileged to see them almost every day. In May, they will both have a birthday, as Obi turns three and Ashley turns one. Jonathon and Johanna are training them well. As for our daughters, Leah has been very gracious as we have invaded her home and taken over space that she was used to having to herself. With her very busy schedule, she, Jonathon, and Johanna managed to move most of our things out of storage and into the house so it was ready for our arrival. We were also recently blessed to have Rebekah join us as she returned to the States from Ukraine for a short visit. The Lord continues to bless her ministry and protect her through the war.



Thank you again for your faithfulness in supporting us, praying for the ministry in South Africa, and for us and our family. We pray you had a blessed Easter and that each of us may live and witness with the boldness and reality that Christ is alive, so others are drawn to Him.

Serving the Saviour,

Ron & Tina Fruin

Prayers

- Furlough travels
- Ron's health
- Church building in South Africa
- Rebekah and Ukraine

Praises

- Help moving possessions into storage
- Safety in return to States
- Provision of vehicle
- Time with family