

Life and Death

March 2020

“Mom, Jenny is having contractions. We’re not sure if the baby will come tonight, but be ready to head to San Luis Obispo (SLO) if we call later.” Those were the words our son, Jordan, shared with Diana when he called Tuesday morning, March 3. We both packed bags so we could leave quickly when they called back and go to care for our grandson, Caleb, during the delivery.

A few hours later at 3:45 am, Diana’s phone rang. We assumed it was Jordan. It was not.

Two weeks prior, Diana’s mom, Rhonda (89), had fallen and broken her clavicle. Two trips to the ER in Redlands resulted in her admission to a local rehabilitation hospital for care and physical therapy. She was scheduled to be transferred to a skilled nursing facility that day for continued rehab with hope that she would eventually return home.

The rehab hospital nurse on the other end of that 3:45 am call informed Diana they had found her mom unresponsive. 911 was called, but they were unable to revive her. Diana’s mother had died moments ago.

Three weeks later we did get that expected call from Jordan. Jack Mason was born March 23. He and Jenny are doing well and we were able to travel to SLO to care for Caleb during the delivery and a few days afterwards.

Life is full of contrasts. Our own experiences with life, death, and disappointment this month somewhat mirror the historic events worldwide. Unexpected and significant changes are everywhere. Most of the meetings at which Bob was to speak have been cancelled. Cru has cancelled all of our summer mission events including our own 2020 Whole Person Care Preceptorship and Pre-Med/Pre-Pro Healthcare Student Mission.

In all this loss, joy and grief, God has given us enormous peace and direction. We’ve begun ministering virtually to students and professionals that we have trained. On one hand, these folks need encouragement and support as they work and serve under extraordinarily historic challenges. At the same time, perhaps never in our lifetimes are there so many who need to know the hope and presence the creator God brings. We are working to be both an encouraging support to those on the front lines of healthcare and a resource for providing whole person care to their patients, families and colleagues. Please pray for us as we minister on a mission field that sometimes changes hourly.

Elsewhere, our daughter Elissa, an RN, is caring for her patients. Her husband Logan, a youth pastor, is working with students who unexpectedly find themselves at home indefinitely. Though mostly virtually now, Jordan and Jenny continue to minister with Cru at Cal Poly.

A few weeks ago Cru at Cal Poly held their annual fundraiser for a local charity called “Night at the Oscars.” Students made home videos that all watch together enjoying the silly, the spiritual, the serious and the goofy. Over 400 students joined! Jordan and Jenny got in on the fun and made a video of Caleb. Students LOVED it. You can view it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OL1yxd3YPdk&feature=youtu.be>

Please know we are praying for you during these turbulent times. Thank you for standing with us as we offer hope from Jesus, the one who has conquered death.

Bob & Diana

Currently Upcoming Scheduled Events

- June-Bob speaks at CCHF National Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- June 11-14 Reunion 2020: Celebrating 20 Years of Summer Preceptorships Redlands, CA
- October 2-3—METS Whole Person Care Conference, Tulsa OK
- Nov 5-7-Bob speaks at Global Missions Health Conference, Louisville, KY



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