

THE BLESSING BULLETIN

June 25, 2024

PRAISE REPORT

Thanks so much for all your prayers for my recent EGD. Praise the Lord with me that there is no cancer present in my esophagus or stomach! The lab results also confirmed improvement in the impacted areas of my digestive track. It wasn't a huge surprise to me since I have been feeling better over the last few months. I am so thankful that my improved health has also allowed me to begin adding exercise to my daily routine again. Thank God with me!!

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The logo for Avant ministries, featuring the word "Avant" in a stylized, cursive red font.

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MINDSET SHIFT

I have loved each adventure with God. That isn't to say that there haven't been hard times, but God has given me a love for nearly everything that He has called me to do. There is one very big exception . . . fundraising. The very word conjures up bad memories. It took me nearly four years to raise my initial support in the 1990's.

I understood the Blessing would require additional funds. However, I really hoped that God would work a miracle. After all, He knew how much I didn't enjoy this part of the adventure. If I simply shared the vision, I could sit back and watch the funds pour in.

While I believe that God can indeed work miracles, He doesn't always choose to work in that way. I had planned to focus on fundraising in March 2023. As you know, my health took an unexpected turn. I was unable to do much of anything for nearly 9 months. In March 2024, my thoughts turned back to the fundraising process.

With some incredible ministry partners advocating for me, some new funds have come in. However, I realize that God wants me to be more personally involved. Since I haven't really had to do this since the 1990's, I knew that I could use some help. A few weeks ago, I hired a fundraising coach.

There have already been many benefits. I am learning how to better communicate my vision to new potential partners. I am consolidating contact lists. Above all, there has been a big shift in my mindset.

I have always had a hard time talking about money. It is how I was raised. Unless asked, I rarely talk about the need for finances for fear of taking advantage of or even worse damaging a friendship. I was surprised to have homework before my first coaching session. Even more surprising, it was a Bible study. God used that study to change my entire outlook.

"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit."
Philippians 4:17 It isn't about seeking money but rather giving others the opportunity to participate in God's kingdom work. As I do what I enjoy, connect with people, please pray with me that many will accept the invitation to join the Blessing team. It isn't about money, or even me, but about God's heart to care well for those sharing Jesus with the world.