

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE ROSES

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Reading through a Recent Letter

Isaiah 40:31 is a well known passage containing familiar phrases like "mounting up with wings as eagles", "running and not growing weary, and "walking and not fainting". While this verse is often used to emphasize God's sustaining power on those who wait on Him, I also believe a closer look reveals another truth - read on to see what I mean.

This past spring we received a ministry update from someone we met at a recent conference. He was the guest speaker, and we were providing the music for the event. In his letter he shared how he had a busy start to the new year, serving in various capacities.

However, as he continued, he began to share how their current schedule had slowed to a crawl, and how during this time he and his wife also

experienced some unexpected health challenges that further complicated things.

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
(Is. 40:31)*

Stopping there, I must admit, I was taken back by his honesty. No one in ministry likes to report back to their donors saying "Hey, times are slow right now and there's really not much happening!". Personally, we feel a deep sense of responsibility and accountability to those who partner with us. As such, we always want to share something!

Yet, at the same time I could

relate to our friend's update. We too had a very busy start to the new year, ministering in several churches and events. However, the second quarter of this year has been painfully slow.

Just like our friend, we also have experienced several health challenges, not personally, but with the unfortunate aging process of both my parents and Suzette's mom. So far this year we've probably made close to a dozen trips between both our parents, and while we're thankful to help, neither of our parents are local, and each trip requires lengthy out of state road trips.

Considering these things in light of Isaiah, I'm reminded life is filled with times when things come at us fast and furious, busy times, when all we can do is "run". At the same time, life is also filled with moments

when all we can do is take one day at a time, slowly going through the rote routine of life at a "walk's" pace.

Yet in Isaiah, regardless of where we're at, God acknowledges both the "run" and the "walk" of life, and reminds us of His sustaining power in both!

I don't know where you are today, but I would guess you're probably somewhere in that mix, either running though life, or at a stage where all you can do is walk.

Take heart, God is with you no matter where you are. He knows when you need to run, and when you need to walk, and when we wait on Him, He promises He will hold us up regardless.

So wait on God and let Him renew your strength. Then soar the heights as eagles; run and never weary; walk, and never faint!

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- ◆ We praise God that he chooses to use us at all. It is such a privilege to serve Him.
- ◆ We're thankful the work on the PACT Camp project in Romania is moving forward. We'll be traveling the end of August, and again in November to support the construction efforts of the camp.
- ◆ A Master Plumber from one of our supporting churches will be traveling with us in November. We look forward to introducing him to his first overseas missions experience. Please pray for his planning and preparation.
- ◆ As we've waited for the details of this

project to come together, we praise God, knowing He is always at work, even when we are waiting for Him to show us the next steps in His plan.

- ◆ Please pray for the PACT project, for safety as we travel, that God will bless our efforts, for good team work with all involved, and for God to be honored through us as we serve

Him, the missionaries, and the Romanian people.

- ◆ We're excited to be invited once again to provide music for the annual missions conference for First Baptist Church of Ranson, WV. Please pray for our preparation as we practice and determine the best songs for this conference.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom as we strive to support our parents as they deal with the effects of the aging process.
- ◆ Above all, please pray that we will honor the Lord in all that we do, whether in ministry, or in everyday life. He is worthy of nothing less than our best in all things.

Tim and Suzette Rose

abwe | Construction

236 Fairview Rd.

Gore, VA 22637

540-303-2252

Email: timothy.rose@abwego.org