



Rick Barton Ministries

October 2023

"We Are Surrounded by Blessings!"

What blessings surround You? If someone asked you to list the blessings in your life, how would you answer? Family, friends, salvation and the indwelling Holy Spirit (These should be first, but it seems we almost forget), and more. This month, I am reminded of the people God has placed around Melva and meduring my recovery from 2 knee surgeries. The folks from our church family bringing food, others spending days digging out waterlines by machine and by hand so they could be insulated for the new well. Others setting up our worship services and working late into the night to help prepare for a funeral service so a family could focus on their family and grief. And still others praying for us from around the country, offering to help in any way needed.

As the old saying goes, "The best things in life aren't things". Would you please join Melva and me in pausing right now and thanking God for the people He has placed around each of us and letting them know what blessings they are! "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all" (Philippians 1:3-4)

September Happenings: On September 6, I had my second knee surgery in a month, this time a total knee replacement. Obviously, that has slowed me a bit. Yet, after 2 weeks I was able to start leading our Saturday Night Worship Services and preach in Pitkin CO (from a stool). September 30th, I conducted a Celebration of Life. The services seem to have a wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit in them. Our God is strongest when we are at our weakest! "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9b) Melva has been such a blessing as my nurse, driver, and more! What a blessed man I am!

Upcoming: Because of the surgeries, we had to cancel our planned revival with Hebron Baptist in Mississippi which was a huge disappointment! We also had to postpone ministering in Cripple Creek and Livermore CO. We are hoping to still make trips their way later in October or early November. Locally, we are re-starting our West Elk Bible Institute class on systematic theology as well as continuing our Saturday Night Worship Services and a Celebration of Life this month.

Testimony and Update on the knees: My right knee has a long history. In High School I was riding a small motorbike home from a church meeting. A car came over a hill in my lane and I went through its windshield. The police told my mother I probably wouldn't live the night, but after 19 days in Denver's Swedish Hospital I was released. The Lord wasn't through with me yet! However, glass from the car's windshield went into my knee and cut ligaments, tendons, etc. which the doctors couldn't repair. The surgeon stated I would never ski again.

For over 50 years I've been able to teach skiing and fight forest fires on that knee. Finally, after multiple "cleanouts", cortisone shots, etc. failed to diminish the pain, I knew it was time to deal with it. After exams by several doctors, I concluded that the Lord was leading me to this surgeon at this time. Four weeks later, I am walking pretty well without a cane and the Physical Therapists feel I may be able to ski in time to teach and hold chapel services on the mountain. Praise the Lord! Your prayers are making a big difference!

Family: Rebekah and Nick (Kailani) are in Mexico for a break before their restaurant gets busy with ski season. Joy and Stephen (Hannah and Bethan) are starting their 2nd year in London with Stephen as a pastor. Things seem to be going much better for all of them with the girls beginning to shine in many areas. Tim and Sara (Elizabeth and Sydney) are doing well in Menifee CA, involved in a good church, and praying about adoption. Steve and Annie (Samuel and Abigail) are also involved in a good church. Steve is doing free-lance video work and Annie teaching school. Thank You for praying for each of them!

Finances: Approximately ten years ago we felt the Lord saying that if we had a financial surplus, we should share it with "alumni" missionaries, missionary widows, and pastors. Specifically, to help them establish retirement and emergency savings. The Lord has faithfully provided each year and now we try to send a fall as well as spring gift. You are a huge part in providing for these faithful workers in the US and abroad. Our prayer for you, "The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered." (Proverbs 11:25) Thank You!

Thank God for the Reformation! For those of us in less-liturgical churches, Reformation Sunday (October 29), often passes unnoticed. Yet it was Martin Luther and a host of others who were brave enough to risk their lives to call the church back to salvation through faith in Jesus, not works or sacraments of the church. "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH." Luther said, "When I discovered that, I was born again of the Holy Ghost. And the doors of paradise swung open, and I walked through."

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we share locally and out of town! Without His strength and working we can do nothing! Please pray for my knee to recover fully, the pain to cease so we can get some rest, and to be strong enough to ski at the right time. Please pray for those we minister to locally, especially those who's loved ones have passed. Please pray for our "alumni" pastors and missionaries as they serve around the world. Thank You!

You are such blessings to us! Thank You, Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Ministering in Pitkin, Colorado



Fall has come to the Colorado High Country!