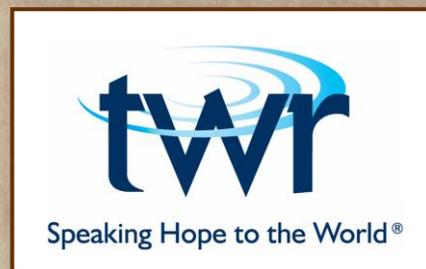


The Rags Bag!

An odd gathering of events and articles that may at times have something to do with the Ragsdale Clan and their adventures in Europe. This might include their latest musings, ministry updates, news, maybe even a song or picture that is in some way or another related to our ministry, extended family and friends. Our hope is that whatever comes out of "The Rags Bag" will not frighten, but instead, enlighten and encourage you to pray for us and TWR.



Dear Family, Friends & Prayer Warriors:

March 2021



Photo by Mom

Anticipating the unexpected...

It's hard to know where to start. When last we wrote to you, we were looking forward to Jean Marc joining us in Cyprus for Christmas break. Cyprus immigration approved his application to enter Cyprus, but in the end and just before his departure, he tested positive for Covid-19. We quickly made plans for him to go to Oregon for a couple weeks toward the last part of December. That also didn't happen because two weeks later he still tested positive, just before he was due to fly. To say we were all disappointed is an understatement, but we are very thankful to the Lord he came through Covid-19 with only mild symptoms and is strong and healthy. In the end the pastor's family from his church in Toccoa took him in for Christmas day and made him a part of their family celebrations. God is good! A friend in Washington even purchased several very nice gifts to be shipped to him.

Here in Cyprus, after weeks of tests and doctor's visits, Nicole underwent surgery in early January for a large tumor that needed to be removed and biopsied. We are grateful to the Lord for His protection over her during the

surgery, and that the biopsy showed the tumor was benign. Please be praying for her complete healing and peace of mind. We were thankful that Carol was able to get special permission to be in hospital during the time of her surgery and aftercare.

Lockdown and increased restrictions...

These words "lockdown" and "restrictions" are used so frequently these days that it's scary to think it almost sounds normal. Just after New Year's, we went into strict lockdown with an 8pm curfew, and were only permitted out of our home twice per day, if our text message requesting permission was granted. No visits to other people's homes were permitted. The lockdown lasted roughly a month and on February 8th restrictions were



Photo by Jennifer Santor

eased a little. We are thankful that none of us or those we interact with from our office or church, have come down with Covid-19. We are also thankful that as of February 8, Nicole is back in school with normal “on-site” classes.



Photo by Carol Van Dyken

Birthday surprises...

On Carol’s birthday, a couple of friends from the office showed up in the parking lot at a grocery store. When she arrived in the parking lot, they had a birthday banner and cupcake complete with candle waiting to celebrate with her. Though they were not permitted to be together due to lockdown restrictions, they could sit in their cars and chat back and forth and enjoy one another’s company for a bit. This was a special blessing for Carol as we could not otherwise get together with anyone to celebrate on her special day.

Farewell to a father and grandfather...

When last we wrote, we mentioned the father and grandfather of one of our team here in Cyprus. In December, after struggling with advanced brain cancer, and having contracted Covid-19, he passed away. A week later a funeral was held, and we were able to join the family at the graveside service. He had served the Lord for many years with Operation Mobilization and had a fruitful ministry witnessing to many people around the world. He was a joy and blessing to many. Do continue to pray for this family. They are key ministry people working together with us in reaching out to the Amazigh people of North Africa.

Home Assignment plans and acceptance to college...

We will let you know in our June letter, what our speaking schedule will be for our home assignment. Here are the (adjusted) dates for our time in the US in 2021:

August 1 – 11 - in Oregon

August 12 – 31 - in North Carolina & Georgia

Sept 1 – Oct 25 - in Oregon and Washington

A note of praise and celebration for us, is that Nicole has been accepted to attend Toccoa Falls College (TFC) in Georgia starting in August. She is really looking forward to being closer to Jean Marc, who also attends TFC. Though we still need to come up with a way to finance part of her college fees, we are grateful she has been offered an academic scholarship and some federal financial aid. Having lived overseas all her life, it will be good for Nicole to be near to her brother for a time as she learns to adjust to life in the USA.

Once again, we thank you for your prayers and support that keeps us moving forward in the ministry with TWR here in this part of the world. God is transforming the lives of many listeners through the radio programs, and we are thankful to be a part of His work.

Yours in Christ,

John, Carol, Jean Marc & Nicole Ragsdale

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