

The Tozour Times

News from 2012

Funding & Finding a Freightliner

As 2012 began, Rich wrote in his journal:

We begin this year as we spent most of last year: **separated** as a family. Our truck engine went bad last March (blown piston)... We're looking for a Freightliner Sport Chassis. While the funds have trickled in over the past year, we're only about a third of the way to where we need to be to purchase a decent used truck. We hope that this period of separation and uncertainty will soon be over, but we know that our Lord is good and fully in control. (Rich's Devotional Journal, 1/1/12)



Briana (16), Angela, Lanae (2) Rich & Heather (13)

It had been a challenging ten months up to then. Each week Rich would fly (or drive with a borrowed vehicle) and meet Michael and Candace for the meeting. Sometimes he'd be gone for two weeks straight, and then he would be home for one or two nights before going off again. Our one-year-old Lanae would sit on Daddy's suitcase and cry when she realized that he was packing again.

During this time Scripture was our source of hope. Reading Romans 4 early in January, Rich wrote:

How convicting! Here was a 100-year-old man with a 90-year-old wife...still looking to God, not only for a baby but for offspring as plentiful as the stars and the grains of sand! Abraham 'staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God.' Without **faith**, it is **impossible** to please God (Heb. 11:6)! He gets **glory** through faith but is maligned when we exercise unbelief! (Rich's journal, 1/4/12)

The second week of January, we received \$10,000 from six separate sources. Our hearts were so encouraged! Having fully researched what truck would best serve our needs, we were asking the Lord for a 2006 to 2008 Freightliner Sport Chassis with 66,000 miles or fewer, a Cummins or Mercedes engine, with a neutral-colored body. The cost for a used truck of this description would run between \$70,000 and \$75,000 (half the cost of a new one), but such a truck would outlast a conventional pickup truck by two or three times. The pulling capacity and braking power would be significantly greater.

By mid-January, we still needed \$35,000 to \$40,000 to reach the goal. We all began to pray more earnestly for the truck, as we were all weary of being separated from each other. Several days of fasting and prayer followed. By the end of January, we had another \$4,000 given to us from a church. With the money received in 2011, we were halfway to our goal.

On February 19, we received a call from Pastor Rusty Smith of Mikado Baptist Church (Macon, GA) telling us that their church was sending us a gift of \$16,000! Wow! Talk about encouraging.

The next two days were spent pouring over website listings of trucks. Wednesday came along with no more funds by church time. Rich gave a testimony that night in church about the gift on Sunday. On the way out the door, we were handed another check for \$1,100. Someone had given it to the pastor **before** church started.



Then, around 11:15 p.m. on Wednesday, our friend Dave Schindel, pastor of Trinity Baptist (Franklin, TN), called to tell us that their congregation was sending us \$20,000 for our truck! Praise the Lord!

On Friday of that week, we agreed to buy a 2007 Freightliner Sport Chassis with a 330 horsepower Mercedes engine. It was white in color and had 39,000 miles on it—a beautiful truck! We had just what we needed to pay the price tag of \$73,500!

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you **an expected end**." Every trial will eventually have an end. Imagine the smile on our faces when our new truck was delivered to us on March 6th, one year exactly from when our previous truck died!

Team Travels and Family Field Trips



Brooklyn Bridge – New York City

Having spent a year separated as a family, we Tozours were very glad to be back together again. The evangelistic team was also reunited after experiencing the absence of Angela and the Tozour girls for the greater part of twelve months.

This was one of our busiest years ever! At our annual Spring Preachers' Retreat in Alabama in April, we had the best weather we've ever experienced. Despite the fact that our scheduled speaker could not make it (due to a flight being cancelled), we had excellent messages from Pastors Dave Gamble and Shane Lewis.

The Tozours had fun making up for lost time together. We made a point to visit some tourist sites when we were nearby for meetings: Washington, DC (twice); New York City (twice); Niagara Falls; the Jersey Shore (Ocean City/Wildwood/Cape May). We built some great family memories!



Ocean City, New Jersey

The Wessberg Window

Michael and Candace let us know in May that they were expecting baby #5 (due December 28). They are very excited.



Michael, Candace,
Zach, Chloe, Evy & Andrew

With the two boys sleeping nightly on the living room floor, it became obvious that they would need a larger trailer. We all began to pray for this next need to be met.

In their case, it didn't take very long. They learned about a 54-foot fifth-wheel being sold by a fellow evangelist. It is a three-bedroom unit with five slide-outs, so the boys and girls could have their own rooms. For \$25,000, they moved into a "spacious" new home!

We have now completed eight full years traveling with the Wessbergs as a team, and blessed years they have been! Our greatest joy is to point everyone we can to call upon the Lord Jesus Christ as his own Savior. To know Him is to be made right with God the Father and to be assured of a future in Heaven with Him. Have **you** met Him?

Journeys (Thoughts from Angela)

The Lord takes us on many "journeys" during our lifetime—some fun, some hard, some painful, but all with the same purpose—that we may know Him in a deeper way. Around our house, we have a saying, "Trials are not electives; they are part of the core curriculum." As many of you know, the Lord chose to take my sister Sonya home to Heaven on October 2nd after a 4 ½-year battle with cancer. She was 34 years old and was much loved by all of us. During "Sonya's Journey", as she called it, we were constantly amazed at how she appropriated God's grace. She kept her happy spirit throughout the journey with her eyes on the Lord and on His plans for her life. How we miss her!

Even though we take great comfort knowing that she is in Heaven with her Savior, it is hard to imagine life without her. We three siblings had the privilege of caring for her during her last 2 ½ weeks at home. We shed many tears together in prayer begging the Lord for a miraculous healing of her body, if that was His will. He chose otherwise. How grateful we are for the precious memories we have those last couple of days laughing around her bedside. (She kept her sense of humor to the end, that's for sure 😊!) What a blessing it was to have four people accept Christ as Savior during her Celebration of Life service. Our greatest comfort is that she is in Heaven with Jesus now enjoying perfect health.



Wessberg siblings:
Lanissa, Sonya, Angela & Michael

It has been encouraging to receive so many notes via email, texts, and cards to let our family know that you have been praying for us. We can honestly say that we can "feel" the everlasting arms upholding us during our journey. Please, continue praying for us as well as for her husband Simon.

We may not completely comprehend God's plan, but we are confident that we can trust Him as His ways are ALWAYS for our good and His glory. We are thankful that we can trust our UNKNOWN future to our KNOWN God!