

# Growing in His Grace

December 5, 2006



## Dad and the weekly ministries

I had the opportunity to go to one of the nursing homes, dad ministers in, to meet with the people and build relationships. I have enjoyed being able to go while Dad is singing and sharing. I have wondered why he never started on time but then realized he takes time to go around and hug every person in the room. You should see the smiles that illuminate their faces. They feel loved and special. During one of the songs dad bent over and asked Annie to help him finish the song. She started glowing at the thought she was needed. Annie is 93 yrs. old and has sung most of her life, but having suffered a stroke, she is not able to sing alone. She joined dad and it made a difference in her life. It is the simple things that make a difference to these dear people. I was blessed to watch this take place. It truly is the small things that bring joy!!! A smile, a hug, a gentle word, a song!

### *A note from Heather...*

Mom called the other day and asked if I could write a newsletter for the family. It seems this year has been a year of Joy, loss, pain, & triumph! Most of you know that Mom's dad (Tom) had a brain tumor removed in September. Since the surgery he has been in the hospital recovering. The tumor was a high grade 4 glioblastoma. The cancer was intense and the doctor was not sure how long it would take for the tumor to come back. The good news is Papa was able to come home after 2 months stay in the hospital. The doctors said, with treatment he could expect to live less than a year and without around 6 months. He decided not to go through the treatments. This has been the hardest thing we as a family have faced. We are trusting in the sovereignty of God, and we are trusting that He has a perfect plan and we know He is faithful. Mom has been caring for Papa along with my three aunts, making sure Meme and Papa have what they need, taking them to the doctor, keeping notes and helping with medications. JT has several out of home classes and staying on top of his schooling also keeps mom busy. These changes have made it hard for her to do the newsletters, emails, and calls that normally take place on a daily basis. Dad has been building a ramp and getting the park model set up for Meme and Papa. But he has continued to minister, locally and out of town. Thank you for the care and support you have given to the family during this time. God is showing Himself faithful and we see His hand in the midst of this trial. Please pray that we continue to seek God during this time. Pray for Mimi & Papa (Tom & Ramona) for a fullness of joy and a peace that passes all understanding.  
In Christ, Heather



## Kids Update

- Beth, Todd & boys are living in Hayesville NC expecting a baby girl. Beth is due in April
- Heather is moving to Africa with AIM to work with the orphans and the AIDS hospitals
- Jennifer is working 2 jobs and just bought a house! That's right she is only 21☺
- Jonlyn is finishing her 1<sup>st</sup> semester at Covenant, she is playing in the orchestra
- JT heading out on his 1<sup>st</sup> mission trip in January, he will be in Slovakia with a puppet team (10 days)

Message from John & Mary,  
Music seems to fit wherever we go,  
(Weddings, birthdays at the park, by  
the bed of a loved one who is sick, at  
the "hospitality house", nursing  
homes, family reunions, or funerals).  
God has given us the opportunity to  
sing and share all over the southeast  
this past year. We went to Canada  
and sang! We are learning there is a  
song for every occasion. God has  
allowed us to minister to so many this  
year, we have been blessed by many  
continuing and new friendships along  
the way. God has been so good to us.  
Thank you for your support, your  
prayers and love.  
John and Mary

## Weekly Schedule in care facilities:

Tuesday: Brian Center 10:00a.m.  
Koala Center 1:30 a.m.  
Kingsbridge 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday: Ivy Hill 10:00 a.m.  
Cedar Mtn. House 3:00 p.m.  
Celebrate Recovery 6:00  
(Brevard Community)  
Friday: once a month at;  
Silvermont Community Center  
Quebec Community Center  
Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Center  
Weekends: open for Concerts, Missions  
Conferences Retreats, etc.  
**Contact John or Mary: 828-883-2174**  
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[www.pefministry.org](http://www.pefministry.org)



## **SUPPORT CORNER**

Support has been a struggle for the past couple of months but God has continued to show Himself faithful. We are praying for supporters to join with PEF and our ministry.

**WE NEED:  
PRAYER WARRIORS  
FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS  
ENCOURAGERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Will you prayerfully consider how you can become a Partner with PEF and our Family Ministry Team? We are looking forward to the upcoming year and are excited to see what God has in store. We are one body working toward the same goal...HIS KINGDOM!!!

**Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!!!**