



# Update



Vernon & Martha Hedge

December 2019

## His Name Means God with Us

This year started like most in the past. Vernon driving the 100 miles to Calvary Commission each week to teach at the Bible Institute, researching and writing on his book drafts, Martha coaching and doing some writing. The usual activities of a normal life. By the end of April, classes were completed at Calvary Commission and final grades turned in for his students.

June 4 changed “normal” when Vernon had the first stroke. Martha saw it when it happened and had him at the hospital within 15 minutes. He was already admitted and on the ICU floor of the hospital when the big stroke hit the next morning. A nurse was with him, making help instant. He was then upgraded as an ICU patient.

None of the procedures were getting the second stroke under control. His main doctor never said the final med was a “last resort,” but his attitude and concern sent the message that it was. He said it was powerful and they were walking a fine line to balance risk and positive results. Medicines had reached their limit, but God intervened, and the stroke stopped.

After several days in ICU and three weeks in hospitals, he came home with a full schedule of therapy sessions and doctor visits. How blessed we have been to have such amazing medical care. How blessed as we look back and see how often the Lord intervened just when needed.

Now, six months later, he continues with speech therapy and is making good progress with conversational speech. The stroke hit speech, reading, and writing. He knows what he wants to say but it’s a struggle to get the right words to come out. A big contrast to how he has always flowed in teaching, but he’s improving.

Recently, he had the privilege of ministering one-on-one in several situations. He’s not ready for classroom teaching, but it’s been interesting to see how anointing has given words when he needed them to help someone else. The information is all there.

No one ever expects life to make a 180-degree turn. It takes a while to get past the emergency thinking and settle into realizing this is a process, a different, difficult journey. Vernon is goal-oriented, a diligent student, a man who has pushed through big obstacles in his life. This one is different. Pushing doesn’t work; patience does. People ask how he handles such a radical change.

He says, “Although I never felt alone, I felt like the only person alive—and God was still there. I have learned to totally and completely depend on Him. I look at people who are suicidal and other points of evil, and I see people with no hope. Hope—not “I hope so”—but biblical hope is based in love, God’s love. So how do I do this? I have accepted the situation, which is different than resignation. I haven’t given up. This is a process. I’m learning an abiding trust in Him. Abiding means, “To accept without objection.”

Martha sees this daily. There is no anger. It’s frustrating at times when he’s not able to say what he wants to say, to read and work on the computer, and to drive. But he is patient in the process.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support. As a reminder, for a gift to be tax deductible for 2019, it needs to be postmarked by December 31. All receipts will be mailed by the end of January.

Blessings to all, and have a Merry Christmas!