

WHY ME?

(Have you asked that question?)

WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) International

providing supportive counseling and training to the international Christian expatriate community

---- ***focusing on the ministry of Lee and Carolyn Baas***

February 2019

A little more than 3 months ago, the airlines assisted me in getting an immediate flight from West Africa. My wife, Carolyn met me at the airport in Grand Rapids and took me to the Emergency Center at Mercy Hospital. Five days later they allowed me to go home. Most of you know some of the story.

When I am counseling someone who is struggling with events from the past (or present) I ask them, "Have you ever said to the Lord, '**WHY ME?**'" Often the answer is, "Yes, I often say that."

My follow up question to them is "Why did you ask, **WHY ME?**" They say something to the effect that they believed that they were facing more difficulty than others – or their load of grief was almost unbearable— or that God didn't seem to help them when they needed help.

Have you felt that way?

Have you asked God, "**WHY ME?**"

If you asked the question, did you feel the same way as the ones I mentioned above?

This morning I stopped and asked God that question, "**WHY ME.**"

BUT – the question was not a complaint but a cry of gratitude.

WHY HAVE I BEEN SO BLESSED?"

Three months of God's gracious care and teaching. That is what It has been. A time to re-think priorities and evaluate my teaching, preaching and counseling.

--My health problem started with a bout that took my breath away (I couldn't breathe).

Now, when I think of all God has done for me, I am again breathless. These past days of grace have blessed us.

1. He has provided friends like you to encourage us with your prayers, cards, words of comfort and concern.
2. In answer to your prayers God put His loving arms around us and daily whispered His promises to never leave us.
3. God provided qualified medical personal and equipment to identify problems and prescribe treatment.
4. And, because I couldn't travel, I could have surgery to repair my right knee which has bothered me for a few years.

And now – beginning next month (March), the Lord willing we plan to pick up our overseas ministry with missionaries. Carolyn will go with me to Thailand and Cambodia. We had scheduled this trip earlier last year, but I was behind in my schedule even before I had the November health issue. Normally she goes with me once a year to the Philippines, but she was not able to go last year (also because of my schedule). She hopes to get to the Philippines with me later this year. Praise God that we can now move ahead. Yes, there are still some unanswered medical questions, but we expect good answers very soon. My knee is almost healed, and the platelet count is only a little above normal.

Thank the Lord with us that we have been able to help some people via the internet and phone and we again found out that the most effective way to help is to be there where they are and where they have to deal with difficult issues.

I told some of you that we are getting more requests to help with conflict resolution. That is a big issue and some missions had to stop ministries because of conflicts. We thank the Lord that we have been able to help others through their conflicts. Pray that we will have wisdom to know how to divide our time between needed facets of care.

May God Bless you,
Lee and Carolyn Baas