

Missionary Volunteer Program



Mar 2026

Dear Prayer Partners,

We appreciate your kind thoughts and your prayers for Joanie as she had hip-replacement surgery a few weeks ago. There were no complications and after a one-day stay in the hospital she was sent home and has been busy with healing, recuperating, and PT appointments twice a week. Her first PT appointment was just three days after her surgery!

God was good to give her a great doctor and medical team. Her hip feels great—no joint pain at all! Joanie already has greater range of motion, and her gait is looking strong and steady.

This month, we visited Riverside Baptist Church in Indialantic, FL, where we shared a ministry update and learned about their recent Missions' month report. We also met with another local Baptist church to discuss plans for two upcoming mission trips—one within the US and another overseas. We look forward to helping organize these events.

Looking ahead, I have an appointment with a cardiologist soon. My primary care physician found some EKG readings that concern her. My pulse was a bit “too low” and the readings indicate that I may have experienced some heart damage in the past—further testing is required to get a proper diagnosis.

Also, we may visit some churches in Tennessee in the upcoming months. We've got to see how Joanie's recovery progresses and contact the churches to coordinate our calendars.

In other news, one of my wife's lifelong dreams was to see an actual volcanic eruption. As her hip surgery date drew nigh, she realized that “now” could be the best time to travel and see the Kilauea



volcano in Hawaii as it has been active with eruptions every month since December 2025. With Joanie's complicated, twisted spine, her hip surgery posed more risk (paralysis) than for most patients, and she decided to make the trip while we knew she was mobile (albeit in pain and using a walker at times to help get around). We ended up flying to Hilo, HI, on a Monday. On Tuesday we watched the volcano begin to spew, and soon the fountain was majestically reaching over 1,700 feet in the air! We had lightweight lava-rocks (tephra) falling all around us like hail. It ranged in size from as small as sand grains and as large as grapefruit, raining down on the entire area! One larger piece fell on our (rental) car's back window and shattered it! This episode set two records for this eruption, in height and amount of tephra expelled! Surely, our brief stay was memorable and impressive.

By faith, trusting that God would take care of Joanie during her surgery, we purchased our tickets beforehand for our three-month pulpit filling mission in Tanzania this fall. We cannot express our excitement to serve in this thriving work!

For a Greater Harvest,

Darrell & Joanie Bolton

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