WOW: Word Of the Week

Recalibrating

April 22, 2026

In January I shared some thoughts about recalibration. I had chosen "recalibrate" as my proposed word of the year for 2026. To recalibrate refers to adjustments and course corrections. As Jan and I prepared to ease into less activity and a new season that we called retirement, we were aware that we would be recalibrating our lives.

I wrote, "The coming year will be a time of recalibrating my perspective. How is life to be fine tuned for maximum function in this new era? Personal goals must be recalibrated. I have not yet completed my 2026 goals list, because the template of years past is inadequate to summarize my hopes for a new reality with new circumstances. What are the goals? What actions will align with those goals? What are the new realities of my life? What will be my new strategies?"

I continued, "The coming year is filled with uncertainty." I also shared an important truth: "the same God who controlled the world in 2025 will still be in charge in 2026." A year of uncertainty has at least one certainty!

Little did I know! Little did we know!

As we peered into 2026, we anticipated that recalibrating could be fun, enjoyable, even relaxing. Increasing uncertainties would be opportunities to depend more on God. A recalibrated perspective would be refreshing. New actions would open new vistas. The purpose, value, and ultimate goal of our lives would not change, but the shape of life – calm, joyful, unhurried, drinking in God's presence, word, and beauty would be different.

I wrote, "The increasing limitations will be challenging—but they do not have to be negatives. A new reality can be filled with opportunities, personal and spiritual growth, depth, insights, wisdom. Recalibration will not change our polar north star. God will still be at the center!"

Recalibration took on new form at the end of February, even though we by faith believe the parenthesis that has been inserted into our lives will be temporary. With Jan's fall and broken hip, we spent three weeks in the hospital and rehab. We came home a little over a month ago to continue rehab with the help of home health.

We are nearing two months post-surgery. Progress continues – our present "normal" is doable but is not the ultimate goal. We are still recalibrating!

Here is my updated reflection, this week's WOW. Perhaps I waited too long to choose recalibration as a weekly WOW – "Word Of the Week.". Perhaps all of life demands constant recalibration as we walk closer and closer to our Lord. Perhaps stability is not the norm; perhaps change is the norm. We are confident that God is still orchestrating the doings, comings, and goings of this world. God is ever inviting us to join him in his work in whatever place and situation we find ourselves.

Psalm 139:5 describes God as hemming us in or beseiging us. The context shows that psalmist see that as good! God lays his hand on me. God's presence surrounds, he provides peace, he protects, he lovingly guides. God surrounds his people, providing a barrier and secure stability.

With that confidence, we move ahead understanding that recalibrating is a process, responding to God's gracious will and direction. It is never too early, or too late, to learn the necessity of constantly recalibrating! Such is life!