

Blessed to be a blessing....

By Bob Young

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Jan and I like to spend holiday time together, reflecting on our lives and ministry. We enjoy reminding one another of the multitude of little insignificant things that have happened during almost 55 years of kingdom service together. Some of the little things turned out to be big things!

In the past several years we have been invited to return and preach in five churches where we ministered full-time. Perhaps I should have written ALL the churches where we have served. We have worked full-time with six churches, but one no longer exists due to a church merger. The opportunity to “go home” to teach and preach in these five churches has been a special blessing. These congregations represent twenty-seven (27!) years of full-time local ministry. (We then spent 12 years serving in Christian universities.) We have reminisced and rejoiced as we shared time with brothers and sisters who are dear to us. We have rejoiced with those who rejoice and wept with those who weep. We have been blessed by the continued generosity of these churches in the ministry and mission God has now placed before us.

We have reconnected with many friends. We are continually amazed when we think of hundreds of friendships in Christ that do not end even though time and miles separate us. Heaven will indeed be a wonderful place of glory and grace!

It is easy for us to lose perspective. Sometimes, Jan and I look longingly at those who have lived in the same place for many years, regularly spending time with life-long friends. We try to imagine what it would be like to have such roots and stability, with friendships that have been continuously nurtured and enjoyed across many years. We are tempted to jealousy, but we are brought back to reality when those very people remind us that they wish they had friends around the world.

Friends around the world! Friends in Christ in most of the states of our nation; brothers and sisters in Christ in nations around the world. We are bound together by love in Christ, hope for the future, and prayer for one another.

“Dear God, help us never forget that we are blessed to be a blessing. Thank you for the wonderful way you have blessed our lives with friends and spiritual family in Jesus.”