



international Freedom Christian Fellowship (iFCF)
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2021 — Year of Trails-Challenges-Perseverance....Hope...

2021 started out great— iFCF services were held every Sunday at our facility in Ogden. Members and friends (from AZ, CA and MI) met regularly on Thursday evenings for Bible Study about “Wrestling in Prayer”. We completed the study in May 2021. Ron continued with prayer meetings, prayer calls and events with the National Day of Prayer.

“Have you considered my servants Ron and Karen...”

April 2-17, 2021— Ron and Karen had COVID-19 at the same time. No hospitalization was required. We stayed home for 2 weeks. Ron went to the ER twice. Both times he was sent home without medication. Both Ron and Karen recovered well together.

May 24, 2021—Ron and Karen had food poisoning, followed by diarrhea and vomit on **May 23 night**. Ron experienced a sharp, excruciating pain in his torso area at about 4 AM. Both Ron and Karen were admitted to the local ER at about 6:30 AM. Ron was diagnosed with **“Esophageal Rupture”** at around 9 AM. He was transported by ambulance to Ogden Regional Hospital by about 10:30 AM. His first surgery was from 3:30 PM—7:15 PM. He remained in the **ICU at Ogden Regional from May 24-July 25, 2021** due to multiple complications, surgeries and procedures. He was transferred to the **University of Utah Huntsman’s ICU** where he remained until **August 11, 2021**. His **esophagus was surgically removed on July 27, 2021**. He was admitted to the **Nielsen Rehabilitation Hospital at the University of Utah** where he remained until **September 4, 2021**. He spent **103 consecutive days** at the hospitals, majority of the time in the ICU. He came **home on September 5**. The discharge plan was for Ron to remain on tube-feeding only. He can eat via his mouth for throat muscle strengthening and for food-taste comfort only, but everything that he swallowed is collected in his “ostomy” bag outside his chest. He had speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

December 9, 2021—Ron was scheduled for a surgery to reconnect his stomach to his throat. That **surgery failed**. His stomach is currently “cemented” to his liver due to severe scar tissues inside his body. The surgeon were unsuccessful in separating his organs. The surgeon was unable to use Ron’s colon to connect to his throat due to insufficient arteries and blood vessels in his colon. Ron was told he needed to wait at least one year as of December 9, 2021 for another attempt to be made to reconnect him. At this point, Ron wants to wait until late Spring 2023 as he does not want to have the surgery in the winter months (December-March) due to the unpredictable wintery conditions. The University of Utah hospital is almost 2 hours away from home, one way.



May 24-June: Intubated & sedated



June 22: Trached & seated in a recliner



July 13: 1st wheel-chair ride in hospital



September 12: Homecoming service with supportive neighbors; Ron in 4-wheel walker



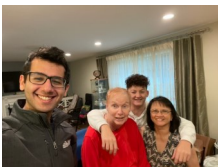
September 26: Glad to be home together



September 26: Ron preached for first time since



September 26: iFCF Sunday Worship Service with house-guest from Iran-Kuwait



October 9: House-guest leaving for home (Kuwait)



November 2: Ron walked around the block unaided



November 21: Ron & Karen’s 23rd wedding anniversary celebration



November 25: Happy THANKSGIVING



December 5: Yard work



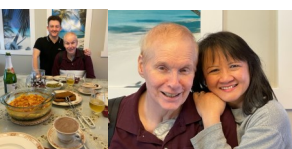
December 5: Pre-surgery “All-You-Can-Eat” hamburger meal



December 14: Prolonged feeding-tube for nourishment



December 25: Ron’s Christmas presents—medical essentials



December 25: Blessed Christmas together as a family



December 31: Monopoly game with house-guests from Malaysia



January 1, 2022: New Year Lunch with house-guests from Malaysia, We will host them until February 17, 2022.

In 2021, neither COVID-19 nor life-threatening health issues have deterred nor hampered our daily love for our LORD Jesus Christ. They kept us very busy and expanded our witness-outreach ministry to the medical communities and to our immediate neighbors.

His servants in Utah—Revs. Ron & Karen Flessner

2021 National Day of Prayer

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Utah Capitol building in Salt Lake City was still closed to the public. Nevertheless, on May 6, 2021, we were able to meet outside on the Capitol Buildings south steps. Within the hour, about 10 people walked up and joined in prayer for America and her leaders.



Psalm 91 Prayer call - Up until May 23, 2021, Ron still participated in and led some of the daily 8 AM prayer call with the National Day Mountain States (Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona).

Night-Watchman Prayer calls - Ron participated in the January 2021 Night-Watchman prayer calls.

KUTR, the Truth in Broadcasting Network—Ron led a radio prayer program that began in February, 2021 and lasted through August, 2021. This was a 25 minute program dedicated to prayer for Utah and the nation, dubbed the **National Day of Prayer Utah Prayer Chapel**. It reached about 1,000 people each time it was aired on the radio.

Annual National Day of Prayer event on May 6, 2021— Ron participated in the nationwide live telecasted from home.

Carols At the Capitol Building— This event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions and Ron's surgery in December. We hope to resume this event in 2022.

Flessner family update

Ron: In December 2020, Ron made the transition to be the *Office and Billing Manager* for Karen's new business, *Bright Hope Christian Counseling Center (BHCCC)*. However, he had to take time off from May to October 2021 due to his esophageal rupture. During those months in the hospitals' ICUs, he kept up his good spirits and testified verbally and behaviorally about the LORD's grace, mercy and love to the physicians, nurses, therapists, friends, family and neighbors. Through his positive demeanor, he testified about the LORD's goodness and grace upon his life throughout his medical emergency and physical state. At home, as his strength and stamina increased, he resumed work for BHCCC from home. Starting in late September 2021, he preached from home on Sundays. The live messages were live-streamed and then posted in the iFCFOgden FaceBook as he was unable to travel to our church's physical site in Ogden. The Lord led him to preach about love, faithfulness and perseverance through the book of Colossians. In December, when it was on Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, his message revolved around experiencing victories while enduring hardship and difficulties.

Karen: On December 2, 2020, she opened her own mental and behavioral health private practice— *Bright Hope Christian Counseling Center, PLLC* in Ogden. Visit <https://bhccc.org/> for more information about this practice. She continues to work with individuals, couples and families struggling with crisis, trauma and mental illness. Her clients are from multiple cities in northern Utah. Throughout Ron's medical ordeal, Karen is Ron's main caregiver and a very strong advocate with his medical team. Her medical terminology and nursing skills have exponentially increased. She has also drawn closer to the LORD and experienced His sweetness and presence. Her faith has been strengthened multiple fold since May 24, 2021.

Billy: Due to Ron's unexpected medical emergency and condition, Billy decided to pause his education in St. George and returned home to be with his parents. He has not been able to work since he has to care for Ron while Karen is gone to work. He is trying to adjust to the unpredictable changes and trying to regain a sense of balance and normal in his new stage in life. He continues to lead the worship segment in the iFCF services.

We totally appreciate you who have been praying and interceding for Ron's health and recovery, and your financial help for our family. God hears you when you pray. **THANK YOU, Beloved Prayer Warriors and Intercessors.** We continue to thank you for your faithfulness in and obedience to the LORD. We greatly need and appreciate your friendship, daily prayers and financial support, especially in these times. We love you.

Ron, Karen & Billy Flessner

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