



The Unwelcome Visitor

It wasn't that many months ago when we knew very few people who had been affected by the Covid virus. But somewhere between the winter and spring of 2022, we seemed to emerge into a season of knowing few people who hadn't. We understood our risk of exposure would likely increase as our work and ministry schedules continued to bring us into contact with more people each month. And then it happened – in early August Gary was the first to get hit. Having already gone through a “quarantine practice run” in the spring as Joy came down with something that acted like Covid (but was not), we were prepared. Dividing our flat into “go” and “no go” zones for the sick and well, Joy managed to stay clear of it for a week. But with an overworked immune system, and untimely exposure to others who had it, Covid came and took up residence in Joy as well, ten days later.

Thankfully there were no hospital trips. Just lots of intense flu-like symptoms, and some loss of senses for both of us (which have thankfully all returned). Gary's “brain fog” (was that Covid or age ... haha) has all but subsided, and our energy levels are almost back to 100%. Thank you for your continual prayer covering over our health!

Growing Care Globally

Many of you know and remember the graphic that was part of the vision we shared with you when we were raising support to say “yes” to the Lord's invitation to serve and support global workers from a field-based location. In just three short years the Lord has affirmed that vision in many ways – including the Care Clusters that He gave vision to and enabled us to build with our FMI Europe family first. The Lord has now taken that



vision of Care Clusters and is sharing it with others in our FMI Global network. Aaron Hunter, a personal friend of ours and now FMI Global Associate Director for the Americas, recently reached out to us to understand the Care Clusters that were birthed in Europe in the fall of 2020, hoping to begin implementing them in South, Central, and North America. And we hear through the grapevine that the words “Care Cluster” are working their way into conversations with other Global Area Directors from other parts of the world. Regular and purposeful connections between small “clusters” of global worker peers all over the world. Another piece of healthy and sustainable worker care!

Thank you for saying “yes” to being a part of this foundation-building season of care for our cross-cultural workers. The Lord, with your “yes” in partnership with ours, is building new levels of care for fellow workers here in Europe, and using other “yesses” to expand the vision of this type of care globally. Please join us in praying for the continued growth and vitality of this worker care network!

Joy
Gary

Gary & Joy Peiss

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