



June 7, 2023

Thanksgiving came early this year to the Bakken home. Dawn and I were able to spend a week in Vancouver helping Sid and Faith with the final details of wedding preparations. The Lord brought everything together for a beautiful wedding. We are thankful to see God honored in the wedding and in their marriage.

Then we headed home for a few days to repack our suitcases and plant a few things in the garden before heading back to Vancouver for surgery. Because of our involvement in the Volunteer Fire Dept. and Dawn's work in the BC Ambulance Service we were able to stay for free at the Honor House for our week in the city. The surgeon was quick, thorough, and very happy with the results. The entire benign large-cell tumor was removed from Dawn's right tibia and no metal plates were needed. She is recovering faster than last time and is already spending time in her garden with faithful help from her paramedic friend Nicky. We are so thankful for God's provision.

With the busy month of May behind, Dawn has her sights set on walking again in about 5 weeks, and I have my sights on . . . Papua. The plans for my next trip are well under way and plane tickets are purchased! Lord willing, I will be heading back at the end of August on a one-month visa. This time I'll be helping Scott, a tribal church planting missionary, repair his house after a 3-year absence so his family can move back from the USA this fall.

The tropical jungle is hard on houses. I'll be helping him with replacing sunken/rotten house foundation posts, stairs, floorboards, and a leaning water tower – the same water tower I worked on several years ago.

With future transportation in mind, we are going to attempt the trip overland by motorcycle. This is the same "road" that Cassia and I attempted in 2017. The bush-plane-plus-helicopter flight option will be a back-up plan.

We're praising God for Sidney and Faith's wedding, Dawn's successful surgery, and the resources and strength to plan this next trip. Also, Cassia is navigating young-adulthood well, and Cori and Levi have a good summer job at a campground here in Clearwater.

We're asking the Lord for continued strength and full recovery for Dawn and that the tumor does not come back. Also, for all the details to come together for this Papua support trip. Thank you to each of you who pray for us and to each you who give as well.

In His grip,

Duane



Sidney and Faith Bakken married May 23



Dawn recovering from surgery