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# UPDATE

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## Last Thursday a Grass Fire Came into Our City



Perhaps you have heard about what is now called the **Marshall Fire in Colorado**. It took nearly 1,000 homes and structures in three cities and **we were one of those cities**. Our city of Louisville, CO lost over 500 homes.

We were evacuated from our home and fled to a Loveland motel, **but came back the next day to find our home was still intact**. Indeed, our whole neighborhood was fine. For a few days we were without heat, hot water, and drinking water; however, we always had electricity. Today we have heat and hot water, but the water is still not potable. Yet, we are doing

Above: photo taken of nurses at the Good Samaritan hospital (Lafayette, CO) looking through a window at our burning city.

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fine, because we have plenty of bottled water. This problem should be fixed in a few more days or weeks. They have to “flush” our town’s water system to insure decontamination.

I sent many of you an email that described our experience in some detail, so I won’t go over that any more. We are coming back into full action and are amazed how quickly we have gotten back to a new “normal.”

I should say that Phyllis and I have not had the feeling of trauma that some have felt from this experience—from the closeness of the fire to our home and the possibility of losing our house. Some of our friends lost every earthly possession they had. Our son, Scott, does feel traumatized, but is getting over it slowly. That safe and secure feeling a home brings, he now realizes, can be taken away.

There is, however, **a safer and more secure reality** (not necessarily always a feeling) because **we belong to the Lord** and we are only sojourners for a while on this planet. We won’t be able to take anything with us. Instead, we long for a new city with foundations whose architect and builder is God, where I would add, thieves do not break in and steal.

**In the news:**

**“There is, however, a safer and more secure reality...”**

1) We are ready for the new semester to start for the Christian faculty fellowships at the schools we serve. We have lined up speakers for the first two months! Praise God.

2) I travel next week to the Air Force Academy to meet with Connie Leonard and Dr. Mark Groteuschen who are our local leaders. Our first semester working together went very well and we look forward to a productive semester.

3) I am enjoying coaching a friend who is leading seminars on how to do personal evangelism at his local church. We’ve been friends for years and he’s a very effective evangelist and apologist for the faith. He’s asked my advice on what and how to teach the class and how to deal



The fire was hot enough in places to melt the metal mail boxes. Here’s a photo I took of a partially melted collection of boxes at a nearby condominium complex.

with issues that come up. This i consider a great way to multiply the things I've learned to faithful people.

4) Speaking of faithful people and committing to them the things we've learned, through December and into the New Year I have continued to do that by Zoom with my faculty leaders. My goal is to educate them on Christ and culture in terms of doing evangelism and what is currently going on in terms of cultural revolution in our nation. It won't come as too great a surprise to learn that much of what I see in our culture and how we bring about social change does not comport with methods we find in Scripture. I want to equip our leadership to discern those differences and offer alternative perspectives. Yes, we have a secular culture that wishes to be more secular in their thinking and in methods of "fixing" things in society; but I think in Christ we can offer better—our Lord can change hearts. That's what I'm very motivated to offer to our leadership.

5) We have updated and transported our entire website to a new server, but it can still be reached at:

<https://www.academicconnectionsgcm.org/>

Please don't use old links and old book marks to reach it, but instead you can either click on the link above or type it in your URL window in the same exact way. You should see "lock icon" when you arrive at the site which indicates the site is secure. If you do not, then something is wrong.

Finally, we may not have your email address and so you might not have seen our November prayer/newletter. For those that I think are in that category, I'll include a copy of it, too.

Warm regards in Christ,

Jim for Phyllis and Scott



Isaac our dog, sniffing at the entrance to the remains of a condo complex consumed by fire, .2 of a mile from our house.