“What is God is doing in our lives?”

When someone asks me, “What has God done in my life?” I can say that He has worked in my life from my earliest days. When I was a week old, I was told that I came in contact with a childhood disease known as whooping cough. My mother said that God put the good women of the Neoga F. C. C. into action watching over me for a number of weeks, turning and holding me until I was able to recover.

            Later, one might say that I have been saved from a number of possible encounters with an early death: I was run over by a farm wagon, an automobile, and a farm tractor. I fell from a tree, took a fall from the second story of a barn while under construction, and, later in life, I was pulled from the bottom of a swimming pool while attending a youth camp. I was involved in a few auto accidents (too many stories to repeat and to bore anyone with again).

            My mother said she had prayed if I lived through the bout with whooping cough that I might be used of the Lord in some way in His work. Whether that, or any of the other life/death circumstances which I have been in, have been a part of her prayer, I may never know, but I thank God that I can still serve him.

           I may not know what lies ahead for me in the future, but I can thank God for perhaps giving me a guardian angel to guide my mistaken or misguided steps.

            I have enjoyed working in Christian related communities, Christian colleges and university settings, and a number of tremendous churches throughout Illinois and Indiana. I continue to enjoy the fellowship and opportunities that my connection with the church has provided me to share my faith in teaching and working with fellow believers.

I will also give God the thanks while I continue to struggle through this current bout with prostate cancer in the next few weeks and maybe months.

            Many of my experiences while growing up in the church have sharpened my skills in witnessing and encouraging newer believers in their faith. I have enjoyed teaching young people and adults about Jesus. I have been able to encourage couples as they struggled through marital problems. I sometimes encouraged them to seek more skilled counselors when I could see they needed a more experienced counselor than I was at the time. More recently I have appreciated being asked to serve here at Neoga First Christian in the pastoral ministry of Care Giving where I can give encouragement to our shut-in members to others in the community in the name of Jesus. Most recently I have been in the process of helping with a ministry at Heartland Christian Village as a Chaplain this year.

            I also credit God for allowing me to find a lifetime Christian wife, Carolyn, while attending a Christian Collegians’ Spring Camp in Kentucky on April 18, 1968. She has been the woman of my dreams and we have done our best to support each other in our work and ministry together for forty-six years and counting. Praise the Lord. Amen and Amen.

Yours, Chuck Bartlett.