

# Missionaries to “Greater” Cleveland, Ohio

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**Joel & Madonna  
Allen**

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April 2019

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already 1/3 of the way through a new year. It seems that every new year presents its own unique set of challenges. We mentioned in our last prayer letter that I wanted to bring you up to date on some health issues of both Madonna and me. It is nothing serious or life threatening but concerning nonetheless.

Madonna has responded well to the medication she has been on for the last two plus years. She seems to be stabilized and able to function at a reasonable level. I can't begin to describe the emotions that Madonna and I have gone through in all of this (especially in knowing what this disease has done to her). We both realize the grace of God in our lives and are thankful that it has not been worse. Social contact is important for Madonna seeing as how she is now at home and not working. We determined last Christmas that we were going to make a trip down to North Carolina to see our children so that we could have some fellowship. We planned to leave on Christmas Eve, but I woke up with a severe pain in my left side and knew what it was—a kidney stone (more on that later). I spent a couple of hours in the emergency room and went home doctored up with pain medicine and contemplating whether we should postpone or even cancel our trip. We decided that afternoon to make the trip in spite of the pain, left about 3:00 P.M., and pulled into our daughter and son-in-law's driveway about 2:15 A.M. Christmas morning. I didn't actually pass the stone until the day that we drove back which was Saturday of that week.

As for my health, it is relatively good. Since I had that severe cold and bronchial infection back in January of last year, it has left me with a cough that I can't get rid of. I have been to several doctors had three cat scans and spent thousands of dollars (thank God for good insurance) and still don't know what is wrong with me. One of the earlier cat scans revealed a kidney stone so I was at least prepared for that one. My ear nose and throat doctor told me that this was a common problem but gave me no answer as to what the problem was (but is in the process of finding out). I am preparing myself for the possibility that this may be a new normal for me and that I will have to live with it. This last year has been very humbling for me and made me keenly aware that things don't always stay the same. I admit that I was not ready for the changes that growing older has brought. But all these things change nothing concerning our ministry and we still covet your prayers.

In Christ,

Joel and Madonna Allen

JOEL ALLEN  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 2019 – March 2019

Support

Regular Support .....	\$3,053.00
Total Support .....	\$3,053.00

Expenses

Housing .....	\$1,265.19
Utilities .....	707.47
Homeowners Association Dues .....	656.70
Salary (3 Months plus 4 months catch up salary) .....	300.00
Christmas Offering (Rodgers Baptist Church) .....	562.66
Internet (6 months) .....	94.42
House Insurance (3 months) .....	61.49
Total Expenses .....	\$3,647.93