

# The Lowedown

August 2014

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



## The Fall Forecast

Each day, sometime after I wake up, I grab my phone and the first thing I do is \_\_\_\_\_? Many of you probably would think that I check my e-mail but that is not correct. One of the first things I do when I grab my smartphone is check my weather app. I want to see what the forecast is for the day. How hot is it going to be? Will I need to run the air conditioner? And will it be so hot that I need to think about extra water for the grass and plants? And most importantly, is there any chance of rain in the forecast?

For much of California, we have been in extreme drought conditions for the past 2 years. Our snowfall in the Sierras in 2013 was about 25% less than average and 2014 was much worse at only about 30% of our average snowfall. (see this link for satellite images on the California drought: <http://goo.gl/U56uFH>)

Earlier in the year, forecasters had been predicting El Nino conditions for this winter which would bring the promise of above average rain and snow in the west. However, those forecasts may have been premature and the possibility of another dry winter still looms. (This article from the IndyStar explains: <http://goo.gl/HNSyf6>)

Water is essential for life and the lack of water can complicate normal daily activities and routines. The forecast

for this fall calls for more dry weather but we're praying for rain and snow to help bring relief and normalcy back to this region.

In our personal lives and ministry, we're also forecasting what life and ministry will look like for the fall.

Typically, the fall is a busy season.

The kids head back

to school and with it comes lots of homework and other activities.

Jen is usually busy with travel for her Leadership development role and of course, we have our local ministry with Millennials that we are developing.

However, the forecast for our fall looks different than normal. Recently, Jen has been getting infusions of a chemotherapy grade drug that is designed to put her vasculitis disease into remission. As I write this, she has received 3 of the 4 infusions, with her last infusion next week. Over the next couple of months, her immune system will be

broken down and rebuilt. This is normal and expected but the result will be a compromised immune system for several months.

After consulting Jen's rheumatologist and learning how the process works, we realized that traveling this fall would not be wise with a compromised immune system.

As a drought impairs normal activity for those who are affected, our lives and ministry have been affected by Jen's condition. Ironically, the drug that Jen is taking looks as clear as water and we're praying that the infusions have the desired effect on Jen's immune system.

So while the short term forecast means we'll be grounded and working more locally and virtually, we're hoping and trusting the Lord to bring some healing and restoration to Jen so that the long term forecast might bring a return of normal activity to our lives.

Whatever the circumstances we're in, our prayer is that we would glorify Him with our lives and that He would bear fruit through us as we serve Him in whatever capacity we're able to serve.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. Please pray with us, that the Lord would "bring the rain" in our personal lives as well as this region in which we live.

We are so grateful for you and we thank the Lord for you and we pray for the Lord's blessings in your life as well. And we invite you to share your needs and requests with us so that we can pray for you as well!



Jen's third Rituxan infusion bag. Though it looks like simple water, we're trusting that the Lord will use this to reset Jen's immune system and restore her health.



Jacob and Joshua head out for their first day as 8th graders!

Love,  
Dave & Jen