



**Vickie Tingwald** and her husband Gary have pastored churches in Iowa, Missouri, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Gaithersburg, MD. They now serve as US Missionaries in prisons and jails with the Assemblies of God. Gary was the senior chaplain to 23 facilities in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia before his diagnosis of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) which took his ability to speak. Gary and Vickie stay involved by keeping connected to missions in their local church. Their family has a project this year to build a church in Haiti in honor of Gary and Vickie's mission work there. (Contact Melissa Tingwald-Alvarez at <https://www.facebook.com/melissa.t.alvarez.5> to contribute to this project.) They also are willing to share anywhere God provides a way.

## **"We're Gonna' Make It"**

Vickie Tingwald

**We're gonna' make it. We may not look like much, but we're gonna' make it." What a great quote from Charles Greenaway. Gary and I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Charles Greenaway many years ago at a mission's conference held at our local church in Iowa. He**

**had a true missionary heart. We can relate to this saying on so many levels.**

In July of 2012 our lives changed forever. Gary was given the devastating diagnosis of ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. ALS is a terminal diagnosis where you are given three to five years to live without any cure. It seemed pretty hopeless except for God! We knew God was on our side in the battle. We made a decision early on that we wanted our home and life to be filled with joy and hope. We did not want people to come into our home and feel hopelessness and sorrow. We wanted them to know the joy and hope of Christ. Our joy is that God is in the journey.

You see, we knew how horrific this diagnosis was because Gary is the fifth person in his family to have ALS. ALS is a rare disease and only about 10% of those cases are found in families or familiar. Gary's cousin was suffering from the disease at the time of Gary's diagnosis and died one year after Gary was diagnosed. His uncle had died just a few years before that. So we knew what we were facing.

Gary first lost his ability to speak, then his ability to eat, and now he has to be on a respirator every night and sometimes during the day to rest his lungs. He is no longer able to walk or care for himself. But through it all, he is still the same Gary. He never complains and if you ask him how he is he always says "good." His spirit-man has never wavered.....he is my hero!

Someone once said to me that God has chosen us for this journey because He knew we would give Him the glory. I don't know that we feel chosen, but we do want God to get all the glory. God has been faithful each and every day. We have learned so much about what is really important in life. His mercies are truly new every morning and His grace really is sufficient. He is our glorious Hope. No matter what happens here on earth, our final home is Heaven. One of my sustaining scriptures is, "The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will

rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17 Knowing God is rejoicing/singing over us has given me such a peace.

So you see, we’re gonna’ make it. We may not look like much, but we’re gonna make it.