



# Newsletter

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- Up Words # 42

## CONTRASTS



On Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> our family traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee where we had rented a mountainside cabin. The spectacular view from our front door is captured in the picture at the left. During our time away we visited interesting shops, explored the Cades Cove area of the Smokey Mountain National Park and rode the Great Smokey Mountain Railway from Bryson City to Dillsboro, North Carolina. For many years to come we'll have wonderful memories of this vacation getaway. It was great.

On Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:45 in the morning I visited the emergency room at Community Hospital East. I was experiencing severe abdominal pain and all the complications that go along with flu-like symptoms, only worse. I was admitted to the hospital where they determined I was suffering from a partial blockage of the small intestine. While hospitalized for five days I endured three days of an ice-chip-only diet, about three gallons of IV fluids and 60 ounces of barium punch. The view from my hospital window is in the photo on the right. It was awful!



It truly is amazing how different these past two weeks have been. The pictures above capture that distinction. But the reality of the distinctions is not just the pictures, it's a reminder of our perspective. Shouldn't we look beyond what we see? **It is important for us to consider not just what we see but who we see.** Who is there beyond the mountain splendor or hospital window? Might Psalm 13:5-6 be our constant motto. "But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me." O that our prayer would be that of Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer." No matter the view from our window let us always remember to look upon our God.

Life is filled with victories and valleys. May God give us the grace to enjoy and endure no matter the circumstances.

Looking Up!  
Pastor Chuck Circle