

# The Lowedown

May 2015

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



## Overcoming June Gloom

The weather in Southern California is great almost year round. While much of the country was under several feet of snow this past winter, we had almost spring like weather conditions here. It's one of the things that makes Southern California such an attractive vacation destination and it's also why so many people want to live here, which in turn explains why it's so expensive to live here.

In June, however, most of the the Los Angeles and Orange County basin experiences a phenomenon that has come to be known as June gloom. I'm not a meteorologist, so I can't explain all of the meteorological conditions that contribute to June gloom. I just know that for much of June, for some reason, a thick marine layer often creeps in off the coast and envelopes the southland, creating overcast skies in the morning that often burn off by late morning or mid day.

Because our house is located up against the Saddleback mountain foothills at about 800 feet elevation, we often will walk out of our house in the morning to clear, sunny skies. But as I drive down the hill to take the boys to school, it's not uncommon for us to drive right down into that marine layer where it's overcast and the sun is not directly visible.

This last year for us has felt a lot like June gloom. It's as if one day everything was going great and it was sunny outside, but then we experienced some health issues that felt a lot like driving down into that thick marine layer.

For the last year, life has not had the clear, sunny outlook that we would want. Instead, it's been overcast and even foggy at times. Life has been challenging and at times we've wondered if we would ever see the sun through the dark clouds.

These last few months have given us hope that perhaps the June gloom clouds are beginning to burn off and dissipate. We are beginning to see signs of the sun peeking through.

Several months ago, when we started seeing experts at UCLA, Jen was put on a new immunosuppressant that seems to be working. As a result, she has been able to slowly taper down on the amount of Prednisone she's taking and that alone has helped her to begin to feel more like herself each day.

A few weeks ago, Jen was able to be on a conference call with a work group with which she's been involved. That was a big step forward since she's had to disengage with much of her work load for many months now.

Last Sunday, Jen was asked to share in front of our church congregation a bit of her journey this past year with her health and how God has met her in the midst of the challenges of life. It was another key moment in her recovery, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. (You can watch the video interview online at: [vimeo.com/130399778](http://vimeo.com/130399778))

Things aren't back to normal by any stretch but there is more hope now than anytime in the last 8 months that perhaps this disease can be managed and we can fully resume the mission to which we've been called.

We're so grateful for your prayers and the way you've cared for our family this past year. Would you please continue to pray for our family and for Jen's continued recovery?

Pray specifically for Jen's blurred vision to clear and for her lung capacity to increase. Pray too that the side effects of long-term Prednisone use would continue to dissipate.

We continue to trust the Lord for this road we're on and we pray that the Lord might find us faithful and fruitful as we follow Him and serve Him.



Jen is interviewed by our pastor, JP Jones, at a recent Sunday morning service. You can see the video at:

[vimeo.com/130399778](http://vimeo.com/130399778)

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Love,  
Dave & Jen