



Joyously partnering with you to help train third world missionaries

September 2018



Monday, August 27, 2018 started out like any other day. Little did I realize as Mom and I went on our usual short walk in the neighborhood that morning that we would be in the Neuro Critical Care Unit in the hospital that night.

Mom was briefly disoriented when we went for our walk that morning. But the symptoms of what turned out to be a brain bleed (hemorrhagic stroke), manifested themselves even more clearly on Monday afternoon and evening. Mom just couldn't find the words to say what she wanted to say, which is totally unlike her. After a call to my nurse sister Pat for advice, we were off to the emergency room, where the brain bleed was diagnosed. From there, Mom rode for the first time in her life in an ambulance, to a larger hospital downtown where a neurosurgeon could be on hand in case she were to need surgery for the brain bleed. And the Neuro CCU became our home for a few days.

The stroke precipitated seizures which resulted in two painful compression fractures in her spine, which were not immediately diagnosed. Mom eventually had kyphoplasty to cement them, and a couple of days later, she was released into my care at home. We were in the hospital ten days in all. I hesitated to leave Mom's side during that time, but I had LOTS of support from family while we were in the hospital. Our Robin even flew out from Seattle for a weekend to help out. She stayed one night in the hospital and I did go home that night to re-group. Thanks a TON to each one who visited and helped out!

I felt a little daunted by the task of taking over Mom's care alone from an entire hospital team when we were released. My sister Sylvia, bless her heart, jumped on an airplane and traveled 55 hours from Papua New Guinea to come help me transition to a higher level of Mom-care. Shortly after arriving, however, Sylvia got sick and her lupus flared, and she became quite unwell. Despite her physical limitations, it has been hugely beneficial to me to have her here and not feel so alone and overwhelmed. Other family have come to our aid as they are able, as well. I am so grateful for our cohesive family that comes together in such a supportive way.

Home Health is assisting with Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy, and we have a wonderful aide who is helping out a few hours a week. But most of the care falls on my shoulders, and it is a privilege to be here for my mom. Please pray for strength and wisdom on this journey. I have been blessed with a family who bends over backwards to help out, for which I am super-grateful!!! I am thankful to report that my health seems to be holding steady in the midst of this new phase of our journey, so that is a real praise!

Mom has continued battling pain in her back. Trying to manage that pain has been a challenge for the doctors and us. Please pray for pain relief for her, and for recovery from the trauma she has been through. Her speech has recovered dramatically, and she had no paralysis nor marked one-sided weakness. She is able to get around slowly using a walker. And her brilliant smile is still lighting up our lives.



Happy to go home from the hospital!

Robert has valiantly stepped up to the plate with extra help around the house, and also continues to work on course development to help prepare third world missionaries for effective ministry. He is in the process of organizing and fleshing out 20-30 courses. In addition, he is 300-400 pages into a textbook on cross-cultural training that he is authoring. I am more grateful than I can put into words for this very special man God gave me 38 years ago! We're also grateful for you—for your friendship, prayers, encouragement, and support of all kinds. May God bless each one of you and provide for all of your needs.

Praise

- Coming through a difficult time in the hospital
- Opportunities to be a light there
- That Mom is doing so well
- For family who help with Mom's care
- The loving, caring, praying friends, family, and supporters with whom God has blessed us

Prayer

- Pain relief and healing for Mom, healing for Sylvia
- Strength as I care for Mom almost 24/7 at home
- Health for Robert and me
- Wisdom and productivity for Robert in course creation
- God's provision for the needs of our supporters and for our ongoing needs. In the last couple of years we have lost 13 supporters, and four others have had to reduce giving. We are grateful for several who have increased their support, and we are asking God to provide what is still lacking.

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