

Friday, July 15, 2011

Dear Family and Friends,

I was reminded last week about how much Matt progresses all the time. Being here all the time I forget about certain things. Some of you may have seen Matt on the PBS Capitol Concert on the 4th of July. We were able to attend with a group from the hospital. Matt was on the front row and during a song by Josh Groban, called the War at Home, he waved his leg with his exfix and flags. Deidra called and we were talking about it and she reminded me that in May he still needed help lifting his leg. Now he can move it around without help. He is getting stronger all the time and we are getting out of the hospital a little more. Taking a few trips around town. There are a lot of things to be thankful for.

It is good to be reminded of the progress. It helps you get through days like last Thursday when we had several changes in doctors. That always makes us feel like we are taking a few steps backward. (Army and clinic rotations) This week we are working on getting all the information straight with the new docs. Matthew's left leg looks good and he is starting the process of being fitted for his prosthetic. Wednesday he received his gel liner for the prosthetic and Thursday they did a cast of his leg for the plastic outer liner. The right leg has some progress. The skin graft on his foot is healing, the skin graft he had awhile ago on his leg is good, donation sites for skin graft are healing. We are waiting on the results of his CT scan on the fibula and tibia to see how they are progressing. This will tell if he will need a bone graft and how much longer before he can bare weight on the right leg. The ankle bone is still having some issues. The wound is small in diameter but deep, tissue around the bone is looking good but the blood flow to the bone is not there. Doctor Strauss is keeping the wound vac on the ankle to continue granulation of tissue and blood flow to the ankle bone. One thing that makes the transition with ortho hard is that Dr Strauss, the ortho doctor, is on emergency leave. His mom is very sick. The new interns or residents working under him are knowledgeable but we really want to get information from him. Dr. Strauss is the one consistent medical person who has been walking us through this from the beginning. We have been praying for his mom for awhile. Next week when he comes back we will find out about the CT scan of the right leg. We have a few other questions for him.

Our prayer requests: blood supply to ankle, bones to heal, (doctors say bones are healing but they are not healed) answers to questions, and things to transition smoothly, (Our first couple of meetings > > with the new ortho interns/residents have not gone well.) We are trying to find out information about possibilities for moving closer to home for rehab. Pray for the times of loneliness and feelings of isolation that set in especially after family leaves. Dave was here for a few days and Katie is here until the 18th. We are thankful for the time we have together.

Life is so unpredictable but when we remember we are not alone that nothing shocks, surprises or catches God off guard we are able to continue the course set before us. I will continue to say this, because I know it to be true, praying for each other is the best gift of Love we give to one another. It is a comfort knowing that we are lifting each other up to our Heavenly Father who knows all about us and loves us more than we can know. There are times of great joy and deep sorrow. God is with us laughing and enjoying life and He is with us when we are crying, hurting, angry and scared. He knows who we are, where we are, what we are going through. He promises never to leave us. I am reminded that it is me that moves away from His presence by my actions and thoughts. When I realize I am feeling alone and discouraged I pray and read His word and that brings me back into His presence, allowing the Spirit of God to bring comfort, peace and strength. Psalm 23 is my prayer: God you are my provider all that I

need is from You and I lack nothing. You lead me by still waters where I find rest. You restore my soul so I can find strength, You lead me through paths of righteousness for Your name sake - may my life > > reflect Your truths, love and mercy. You are always with me even when walking through the darkest places in life and through death into Your eternal place of rest. You take care of me even in the midst of tumultuous relationships and give joy that is indescribable. Your grace and mercy are with me always.

Praying today we will all draw near to our Heavenly Father where ever we are going or whatever we find ourselves doing. May grace and peace fill your spirit.

Love & Blessings,  
Dave & Debbie Stubblefield