

The Nibbe's To Romania



May 10, 2011

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Dear Friends:

I just wrote a letter but much has happened in the past couple of days and so I need to make another report.

On May 1, at 11:05 p.m. Lynette had a mini stroke as we were getting ready for bed. She lost her ability to speak and experienced paralysis in her left hand and the left side of her face. I took her to the hospital and she had a second, stronger episode, at 11:35 while she was talking to the triage nurse. Lynette was immediately admitted to the emergency room and they began to assess the severity of the stroke. She had 2 CT scans but they could not locate the blood clot. During this time her symptoms continued to accelerate and she lost more motor functions and her left arm became paralyzed. There is a new drug called t-PA, which is called a clot buster, and it has an effect on 1/3 of those that receive it but it must be given within 3 hours of the first stroke symptom. All of the doctors insisted that Lynette receive the drug but it came with a warning, statistically, it is fatal to every sixteenth person who receives it because it thins the blood so much and causes enormous stress on the system. It does, however, have the potential to stop the stroke by dissolving the unseen clot, thereby dramatically enhancing the chance of a complete recovery. Without it the body must endure the full effects of the stroke and many never recover.

At 1:55 a.m. on Sunday, May 2, the emergency room doctor said that a decision had to be made immediately. I was with Lynette and so was my sister, Valerie Clear. At 2:00 a.m. Lynette agreed to receive the drug and we, for all practical intents and purposes, jumped off the cliff into the realm of complete faith in the belief that Lynette's life was in the Lord's hands. We decided to do all that we could do to help Lynette and then trust the Lord to do what nobody else could do. The doctor told us that any sign of a headache or any change at all, no matter how small, had to be reported. At 2:45 Lynette began to experience the early symptoms of a migraine headache so they rushed her back to have a 3rd CT scan. As she was going for the scan the doctor said he was afraid she had begun to bleed in her brain... he was telling me Lynette may die within the next hour.... I left the emergency room and I will admit I was in shock. I went to the waiting room and sent out emails to approximately 15,000 people and asked them to pray for Lynette... at almost 3 in the morning, and immediately I got responses that people were already praying.

The 3rd CT scan was normal and Lynette's vision quickly returned to normal and the migraine symptoms disappeared as well. At this time the doctor said she was in danger from the drug for the next 24 hours and so she was transferred to a level 3 intensive care stroke center at a larger hospital. Many, many things happened on Sunday morning and Lynette was on a roller coaster. On Sunday afternoon she woke up from a nap and had no usage of her left hand so she was sent immediately for a brain MRI and they found the clot deep inside the right side. Lynette had dozens and dozens of blood tests, a "Doppler" of her torso and legs to search for other clots and an ultra sound of her heart where they put a tube down her throat to see if she had a hole in her heart. They found a hole and determined that the stroke was caused by a blood clot that bypassed the lungs, through the hole, and was sent to her brain. Lynette began to make incredible progress on Monday and on Tuesday afternoon at 5 p.m. she was released from the hospital. She has undergone physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy and has many exercises to accomplish at home.

On Tuesday the doctor told her that she could not fly until the hole in her heart was fixed. This presented a problem since the reason we returned to the USA was to attend BJ's graduation from Bible College in Lancaster, California. I asked people to pray for a miracle for her to be able to attend... folks, I didn't believe it would ever happen and I was afraid, and embarrassed, to ask people to pray for something that I knew would not happen. I am writing this from Lancaster, California... God answered the prayers of hundreds of people who prayed for this to happen. We took the train from Chicago to Los Angeles and Lynette was able to sleep almost the whole way there. Praise the Lord, God worked it all out through the thoughtfulness of a friend of mine from Bible college that I worked with when I was at Hyles Anderson Seminary in 1993.

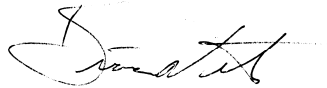
Now, here is the miracle. Lynette was bedridden and could barely speak coherently and was partially paralyzed on Sunday and Monday, May 2 and 3rd. On May 4th she was doing very well and released from the hospital. On May 5th we left for California and arrived on May 7th by train. Today, May 10, only 9 days after the stroke, the paralysis is gone from her left side and from her face. The only symptoms she still has are extreme tiredness, maybe caused by her heart, and paralysis in her tongue which causes her to slur her speech a bit and makes it so she cannot sing. Lynette is a singer, it is her talent from God and she uses her beautiful voice to praise the Lord. But that is where they paralysis has settled right now. Will you please pray that the Lord will restore her voice? Will you also pray that the surgery on her heart to close the hole will be a complete success and that we can return to Romania by the end of June?

I thought I lost my wife on May 2... in fact, I was preparing myself for it. But God spared her and has made her a testimony to the power of prayer. We are so thankful for the wisdom of the doctors, for the care of the nurses and assistants and therapists and we are so glad for the world renowned stroke center where Lynette was treated. But we are beyond belief thankful for the prayers of thousands and thousands of people. We are so thankful for the family of God, for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who lifted her name up to the Lord and begged for her to be healed.

I have just lived the most intense, life changing period of my life. I have been in the school of life since our trip to Israel in March. God also led me to read some books on heaven and ministry the opened my eyes to what the Bible has been saying all along and I have learned to read the Bible differently. Then he made us make a potential life or death decision where we could honestly say, "when answers are not enough, there is Jesus."

The doctors have said they expect Lynette to make a full recovery in time. Will you pray for her please? Will you pray her voice returns? She wants to sing to the Lord for what He has done for her. Please pray that we are able to be effective witnesses of the grace of God by which we stand – Romans 5:2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Nibbe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "N".

Brian J. Nibbe