

October 16, 2020 (Christina):

I continue to be encouraged by the progress Jeff is making, as small as the steps may be! Hannah, Alex & I Zoomed a bit with Jeff today (thank you to the team of nurses for making this possible!) and his eyes were open and he was turning his head as we talked. So amazing to see his reactions to our voices! The ventilator oxygen and sedation levels continue to be adjusted and lowered little by little. There's still a long road ahead but we can see progress! Hannah, Alex & I recorded some songs today that the nurses will play for Jeff and we will continue to Zoom and call until we are able to see him in person! I don't know when that will be, but I can't wait! It's so hard to not be able to be there next to him.

Thank you everyone for the prayers, meals, cards, phone calls, texts, and well wishes. You are certainly making our hearts feel full! We are so grateful for each of you. We told Jeff today that there are so many people praying for him. To God be the glory for the healing that is taking place! We continue to trust in Him!

October 13, 2020 (Hannah):

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."  
Mark 11:24

God hears our prayers.

This morning, on my way into work, I prayed. I do this everyday, multiple times, as I'm sure each of you do as well.

Today, I specifically asked God for a miracle. I prayed that God would give my dad the rest his body needs. I prayed that God would put life into his lungs, and that he would get the oxygen that he needs. I told God that I needed my dad.

The news we received today from the doctor and nurses seemed nothing short of a miracle. Although we are thrilled to hear good news, we are taking it very apprehensively, as we know things can change quite rapidly.

This morning, we were pleased to hear that dad was flipped over onto his back at 12:00am. Dad's care team explained to us that they are going to try and keep dad on his back, and not put him on his stomach anymore as long as he can tolerate it. This means that they will be adjusting his sedation and ventilator settings accordingly so that he is comfortable but not agitated and yet still getting the oxygen that he needs. They continue to monitor him very closely and are constantly checking his ABG's (arterial blood gasses) to assess how well he is doing.

This evening, our family was able to Zoom with Dad. He cannot see us, but he can hear us. As we were talking to dad and giving him updates about our lives, sharing good news and sending him encouraging thoughts and prayers, he started to flutter his eyes. We knew that he was listening and that he heard us!

I read dad the following bible verse:

"My God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety." - II Samuel 22:3A

We reassured dad that he although we are sure he feels afraid, he doesn't have to be scared. We reminded him how amazing his nurses are and how good his doctors have been. We told dad that he doesn't need to worry about us - he just needs to take his time to rest and heal and that we will see him very soon.

About an hour later, the nurse called back on video. Dad had opened his eyes! I don't think I have smiled as big as I did in that moment in a very long time.

Although we know dad's journey to recovery will be long, we have to be reminded of the good and celebrate not only the big victories, but the small ones as well. God is healing dad in his own time - God has placed his powerful hands over him and is reminding us of his plan.

We have so many more adventures to come, Dad.

"I lift my eyes to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth." - Psalm 12:1

October 9, 2020 (Hannah):

Just when we think we're on the right track...

They had to flip Dad back onto his stomach this morning as his oxygen levels were dropping again.

The oxygen levels are better now that he is on his stomach, however the xrays still show a great amount inflammation and infiltrates in his lungs.

Mom and I asked if there was concern with his condition at this point...The doctor said that there is concern because it has been 10 days and he is still not "good". It's reassuring that they are still able to support him on his stomach, but it is discouraging that Dad's lungs cannot tolerate him being on his back (as this was a step in the right direction). Although being on his stomach helps for now, he can't stay on his stomach long-term or there could be more serious complications.

The doctors will continue to give him the anti-inflammatory medications and antibiotics and continue to monitor him.

It may take a long time for Dad to get better. The doctors and nurses will continue to update us and watch for changes. They will also let us know if they feel what they are doing is no longer helping.

It's hard to hear discouraging news, but we will continue to pray and put our faith in the Lord and trust that the doctors and nurses are doing their best.

I know for a fact that dad would want us to continue to pray. He would say "trust in the Lord and trust in his timing."

I would be lying if I said I wasn't scared, but still, I am hopeful.

"Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I am your God. I'll give you strength. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you." - Isaiah 41:10.

October 8, 2020 (Hannah):

Happy Thursday! 🌞

Slow and steady wins the race.

Thank you all for the continued prayers. We feel the love and support from each and every one of you. The power of prayer is truly amazing. My mom is finally feeling better! No more fever (finally), now she is dealing with a nagging cough and being tired. She is so thankful for the continued support and is continuing to rest and heal. Alex has been doing well and was a huge support for my mom during the worst part of her recovery.

My dad hit the "1 week mark" yesterday since he was put on the ventilator. He continues to be on it. The nurses put Dad on his back this morning and they are going to try and keep him on his back instead of turning him on his stomach. He is still getting steroids to help ease the inflammation in his lungs but they might try to lower the dose to see how he does.

The doctor explained to mom that they were able to get 2 liters of fluid off his lungs with the help of another medication he is on. Getting that fluid off seemed to help because they were able to drop the amount of oxygen they are giving him via the ventilator from 70% to 50%. His lungs are sounding a little better when the nurse listens to them, but they are still "angry" and not quite where they need to be.

I did ask the nurse if dad is at a point where he should be and she said, "definitely". He's not behind schedule, but not ahead either. Just right where he should be for now.

He will also get some more electrolytes today and they continue to keep him on the Heparin drip to prevent clots.

Faith in God includes faith in his timing... "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

October 5, 2020 (Hannah):

2 steps forward, 1 step back.

Dad's oxygen level was better yesterday when they positioned him on his back, and the doctors decided to keep him on his back longer (rather than flipping him to his stomach). They also tried to decrease his sedation slightly to see how he tolerated it.

Before long, Dad's oxygen levels started to decrease and he became agitated and restless. At this point they decided to increase the sedation again, and place dad back on his stomach. His oxygen levels are much better when he is on his stomach as this allows his lungs/air sacs to expand more. He will continue to be on his stomach for the next couple of days before they try putting him on his back again.

The good news is that while dad was less sedated, the nurses and doctors were able to ask Dad a few questions and he was able to follow commands.

Dad was able to nod his head "yes" when they asked if he understood them. They asked if he was in pain, and he shook his head "no". Then they asked if he was scared, and he nodded his head, "yes." His care team reassured him that everything was okay and that they are updating his family every day.

As hard as it is to hear that my dad is scared, it is SO reassuring to know that through all of this, his brain is still functioning and that he is not in pain. The nurse today made a comment that dad is "so strong" - I couldn't agree more!

Like anything in life, Dad will have good days, and he will have bad days. We will continue to ask the Lord to give dad peace and comfort, and to ease his fears. We will continue to pray for each other as well as uplift one another.

"God is making things happen for you. Even when you don't see it, even when you can't feel it, even if it's not evident. God is working on your prayers."