

Hello.

We mentioned we would send an update on my dad...so here it goes.

Dad

It has been weeks that my dad hasn't been as alert and has seemingly been going downhill, so my mum and I booked an appointment with a neurosurgeon, now a couple weeks ago, to see if there's anything we can do differently for him and make sure we're doing all we can for his recovery. The neurosurgeon is a friend of other missionaries we know and is also a Christian. We had previously given him all of my dad's hospital records from Canada. My mum was very emotional heading into the appointment, and I was as well. When we sat down and explained why we were there, he explained very clearly that he was in agreement with the doctors in Canada in that my dad would not recover. (This was news to us!) He gave us the illustration of a grape representing my dad's brain, that it is shrinking/dying, and will eventually become a raisin. He gave us no hope medically for my dad's recovery. Though we know my dad isn't doing well, this was a shock for us. The doctor encouraged us in that yes, the Lord could still heal him and bring him back to health, but that most likely the journey God has set us on, is being faithful in caring for him and loving on him, that this is the testimony God wants to use. So many times, we focus on the end result, the miracle of life, or heading on to eternity in heaven, death. But we were reminded of the importance of now, the importance in being faithful in the small, yet important things that involve my dad's care. My mum and dad will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary the 18th of this month. The doctor encouraged my mum to continue to stay strong and continue to love her beloved, that we do not know why God is allowing this, but that He has a plan and her testimony as a loving wife is amazing and that God will continue to use that for His glory.

We will not give up on my dad, we will not stop loving on him, spending time with him, talking with him. But our hearts are broken, we're now preparing not to see his happy face walking around, we're preparing not to hear his encouraging voice, his crazy whistling, or his famous rooster crow. We want God's will for his life, and ours. We will continue to trust in God, even though it's so hard and painful.

I miss my dad every single day, he is everywhere in my memories. Everywhere I turn I remember him...this is bitter sweet. I am so thankful that I have no regrets. My dad and I were so close, we had an amazing relationship, not only as father/daughter, but as coworkers and friends. Even now the tears stream down my face, and that is ok. I love my dad so much, I am so thankful for the years God blessed me with him in my life, even now, the time I have with him, I will continue to stay beside him.

Mom

I am so proud of my mum! She has been incredibly strong and has clung to Jesus through this process. She has done her absolute best to take care of my dad, and let me tell you, he is VERY well taken care of. I thank God for my mum. I thank Him for the example she is to me of a faithful and loving wife. I thank God for the example she is in clinging to her faith and the hope she has of a better future, eternity in heaven with Jesus. Yes, the days are long and tiring, as well as the nights, but she presses on. I have seen such love in her for my dad, it's amazing. I also thank God for the closeness I have with my mum, we have been able to grow together in this time. It has been so very hard, but also good.

Denver

Again, I am so blessed. Denver has been an incredible husband and father through this hard time. I thank God for allowing me to do life beside him! When I've been sad and needed space, Denver has never hesitated to step in and take the girls. He's been my rock, a shoulder to lean and cry on, and loving arms to run to. Denver had the chance to work alongside my dad and loves him dearly as well...he visits him often as well and I treasure the way he takes care of me and my mum. Again, I am counting my blessings.

Now What?

So, are we giving up? No! Whether my dad is in a bed for the next few years, or walking, we will continue to support him and love on him. We will continue to pray for his healing if it be God's will, but we also don't want to be selfish and keep him on this earth if he has no real "life." So, we constantly commit Him to our loving and faithful God, that His name be glorified in all our lives as we walk the path He has laid out before us.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We continue to feel the prayers of many and know that those are aiding in helping us continue to press on. So, thank you. I will leave it at this for now, we will be in touch on more later.

Bye for now,
-Katie

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