

The ART of medicine and the AMAZEMENT of miracles.



Lusilo Baptist Church Sunday morning service Oct 19 2014

lusilo video How Great Thou Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qh1ie4fXWM&feature=youtu.be>

October 19 2014



What an incredibly tense week here for our family. Watching the huge tumor on our sweet Esta grow each day made the need of her surgery just very heavy on our hearts. We all went to the Lord in earnest prayer and waited for HIM to intervene. God opened the door for her here in our own town of Goroka. But the road to the operating theater was a bumpy road indeed.

Monday trying to balance the needs of the nearly 100 at my clinic gate while getting ready to take Esta into the hospital for her surgery was a wild ride for sure. We just told our dear ones here of the need and they so wonderfully waited while we went into the hospital when the surgeon called saying he was ready to admit her. When we got there to the hospital we were told the ONE sterilizer had blown up... surgery pending. More delays??? WE prayed. We went home and were prepared to keep trusting....then the chief Surgeon called while I was seeing my patients again...he found enough sterilized tools to do her surgery. He was a private patient of his and she had priority so her surgery was still on!!! Praise God!! That fee paid was worth every penny!!

After I treated all my dear ones that patiently waited for me, we got packed up and took Esta into the hospital for her first night. I had two totally opposite emotions. JOY that finally we were getting her treated, yet total fear as to what would be facing us this next day. What a long night waiting for what would be a long day to come.

In the morning the man to do her anesthesia came. He told me he is not an anesthesiologist...he was just trained as a nurse anesthetist ...and was he ever worried about doing her case. That sure did not make me feel any more comfortable. HE called our capital where there were real DRs that gave anesthesia and got advice from them, so it was still on. At that point I was not sure we were doing the right thing but we had no other choices...she could die in surgery or die from the cancer becoming a bigger threat each day!! UGH. NOTHING looked like a good option...but we were trusting GOD so we moved ahead.



Our baby girl was so brave. Iv's and blood draws....no feeds in the night....yet she was strong and as ready as she could be. I prayed with her before they took her into the prep room. I scrubbed up as I had the joy of being invited into the "inner sanctum" of the surgical suite to observe her surgery. I did not leave her for a minute and my prayers as the prayers of hundreds of others, were just enveloping her tiny little body that looked SO LOST on that surgical table.

I can not find words to tell you of the peace GOD gave me, though. I had NO REASON for peace seeing the conditions of the place that she was having her surgery, but GOD helped me look beyond the surface to the gifts he had provided!! The men in the operating theater were legends in our country. Dr. Kaupa, the "father of PNG surgery" was there. HE was the one that taught the peds surgeons HOW to do this repair...and GOD had brought him to help OUR baby! 6 Other very senior surgeons were there to learn how to do this surgery. As Dr Kaupa said, we surgeons in PNG must be specialists in everything. They truly are amazing!

It was an experience I will never forget. NOBODY is every allowed into the surgery suites...I have only imagined what they must be like....boy was I totally shocked. Having been in USA hospital surgical suites... this was like a look into the 1940's. Everything was literally ancient and half broken. NO monitors...they used a simple finger probe /blood oximeter to watch her pulse and oxygen percentage during anesthesia...that was IT!! She was intubated by they have no ventilators so all her oxygenation was done by hand using Ambu bags. Their above the head Operating room lights had only two bulbs working. The cautery machine kept going on and off...a short? And yet, in this room of broken down, very inadequate equipment...were artists! These men moved with fluent loving care as they used their fingers and felt along the outer rim of her mass...tenderly pulling away the huge tumor from her body. As Dr Kaupa taught, you cut they bleed...use the tools God gave you...feel and touch ...that is the key of true surgery! He was right...they removed the massive tumor in one easy lift. The surgeon that was being mentored and actually did the surgery , now becoming a sweet friend, literally sighed in relief as that horrible threat was removed in one complete piece from our baby's body. The relief in the room was audible and overwhelming. She lost very little blood...and being a very healthy, well nourished girl, she handled the three hour procedure amazingly well. TRULY the art of medicine met the miracle of amazing proportions!!

Poor Esta had a horrible 24 hours to follow. The surgery was so major yet ,they all gave her was Tylenol for pain...after begging ,pleading then finally demandingthey gave her morphine! In the midst of a crowded surgical ward with about 60 plus people there for all kinds of issues...we stood out a bit! What an amazing opportunity to share Christ!! No water in the hospital....so many many very sick people.....no sleep for either of us...it was a long few days, BUT thankfully the surgeons were happy to let her come home to our care Thursday!! OH how wonderful a shower felt..how great to get my baby clean! We are still communicating with both surgeons daily as her situation is still critical...infection is our biggest enemy! PRAY! Surgery is only as successful as the post- operative care!! I can promise that NOBODY would care for her more intently than I will! I love her!

One of the greatest joys has been seeing Esta's mom and dad and baby brother finally able to come to our home and have time with her today...now that the tumor is removed she is no longer a threat to her village...Praise God. May she be a light to our whole community!!!!

In the midst of our crazy week...poor Bill got majorly sick with an upper respiratory infection and our boys went back to school after a long three week break. Not sure how my amazing husband did everything while I was gone with Esta, but he did!! I had meals ahead and other little helps but he carried all the many loads with grace and love!



A huge blessing for us this difficult week was that GOD brought a Speech Therapist to evaluate our Aaron. We were familiar with her as she had done some work with Amo years ago. She was so excited to spend a little time with AMO again and HEAR the amazing improvement in his speech!! What a blessing. Aaron had some testing. He is very intelligent but there are some inconsistencies with his learning. More tests have been ordered to be administered by our teachers here. One interesting observation is that he may have a "hidden" cleft palate. Never heard of that!! HE has very nasal sounds and a white line down his palate. That may indicate this rare situation that would definitely be a cause for some of his speech issues. PRAY as we try to find out if he has this condition and if so how to treat it! I guess we are the magnet for weird problems lately!!

A long and very stressful week, but many blessings along the way as we all joined our hearts in prayer! [PRAISE THE LORD](#)

*God has provided for safety during Esta's surgery and for the financial needs of the surgery as well !!

*God provided for protection and safety for Lori and Esta as they stayed at the hospital...neither got sick!!

*God opened the door for us to share CHRIST with MANY at the hospital..patients, staff, doctors...Esta shone forth as a LIGHT of God's amazing grace!!!

*God has provided amazing care for our boys with their learning and

speech/learning issues HERE on the mission field!

*God has provided for our ambulance repair needs

*Levi continues to THRIVE and his eyes and kidneys both have now grown beyond that danger zone!! GREAT improvement and GREAT answers to prayer!!

PLEASE PRAY:

*Pray for GOD to protect Esta from infection!!

*Pray for Rachel and her pregnancy and for GOD to provide a vehicle and home for the kids. WE are asking GOD to open doors and lead them to the ministry of HIS desire.

*Pray for Andrew's school fees...we THINK we finally got things worked out with his grant and school bill, but they still were giving him issues with registering for next term.

PRAY for Andrew as he prepares for his aircraft maintenance testing on Nov 17-18. He is one of the first in his class ready to take the exam so he has not really seen what other have experienced...he is breaking trail!

***Pray for opportunities as we continue to interact with the hospital Drs and staff. GOD has used Esta to connect us even more closely with our hospital system.**

*PRAY for one of our NTM missionary pilots, Jon. HE lost his leg in a motorcycle accident this week. WE praise GOD that his life was spared, but now his life will take a whole new direction so HE needs prayer for peace as he deals with this sudden life alteration. HE was going to be the Kodiak pilot...this really is a big shock and discouragement for the NTM Aviation program, too. WE know GOD has a plan...so pray for HIS PEACE!

***PRAY for teachers for Amo and Aarons amazing school...Numonohi Christian Academy!** What a great way to have impact in so many kids' lives!! This is an urgent need. Without teachers they will have to close grades and refuse outside students...LIKE AMO AND AARON!! This school has been such a blessing to our family! PRAY PRAY PRAY!!! AND....COME HELP!!

NO restraints...none...no retreats....none and no regrets...NONE!! Living life to reach lives...thankful for your part in all we do. May God be glorified as we partner together!!

Bill, Lori and the boys...AND BABY ESTA ALIVE and WELL!!

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