

Beyond Mere Words



"What I did know then, is that I was promising faithfulness, support, and genuine care by God's strength, grace, and wisdom regardless of future circumstances."

There were moments just days before Nathan's spinal surgery when he would lovingly put down whatever he was working on, stand up, and engulf me in a huge bear hug. In those moments I would be pondering: "This could be one of the very last times Nate can stand up to give me a hug". When I said my vows just over two months prior to his surgery, I had no idea that in such a short amount of time I would be facing the possibility of caring for a paralyzed husband. What I did know then, is that I was promising faithfulness, support, and genuine care by God's strength, grace, and wisdom regardless of future circumstances. God provided us with a very skilled and knowledgeable physician, a week out of the office to be there 24/7 for Nate, many praying people, caring family, and cheesecake to celebrate our three month anniversary while in the hospital. As you will read in Nate's section, God was very gracious in protecting Nate's body during the complicated surgery so that he was able to wiggle his toes...

Our God is Good, All the Time! (An Update on Health)

If you read our previous newsletter then you know that I had a tumor in my spine at the T11 vertebra. Well, I went into the hospital and had it removed. There were a few complications that ended up happening during the surgery. First, the tumor was not the type that they thought it was. To begin with, when the neurosurgeon looked at the MRI he believed that it was a meningioma (a tumor of the sheath surrounding the brain and spinal cord). However when he actually opened the spine he found that it was rather a neurofibroma (a tumor of the sheath surrounding an individual nerve). The second complication was that the tumor was larger than initially thought. Not only was the tumor about a centimeter larger (it turned out to be about the size of a golf ball), but it also had two tails coming off of it that didn't show up in the MRI. The third complication was that the tumor was not on the side of the spine that they thought it would be. For the surgery, I...



A picture of Nathan's scar next to a quarter.

Beyond Mere Words (Continued)

...after the procedure was over. Normally it takes about a month for people to be able to walk after his type of surgery, but just days after, he was able to shuffle-walk himself out to the vehicle to come home from the hospital.

God has been enabling me to be a blessing in ministry. We (as a ministry department) currently have the privilege of raising funds for some much needed student housing complexes. There has been a notable increase of families who are coming to study the Bible, and currently we have no room for them to live on campus. Although my role in this project is more of a support role, I have enjoyed the challenge of editing appeals and various ministry updates, keeping up with outgoing mail packets, and sharing in the celebrations during prayer time each morning as we thank God for what he has provided. It has been an encouragement personally to see “first hand” how God has moved the hearts of both believers and non-believers to be a part of this expansion. Please pray that God would continue to use this opportunity to draw many to Himself. God is also using me in my department to be an integral part of learning a new data system that we transferred to at the end of September. Being able to properly organize our data means that we can be better stewards in our responsibilities. Please pray that I would excel further in this new program so that I can enable my department to serve as a very “well oiled machine”.

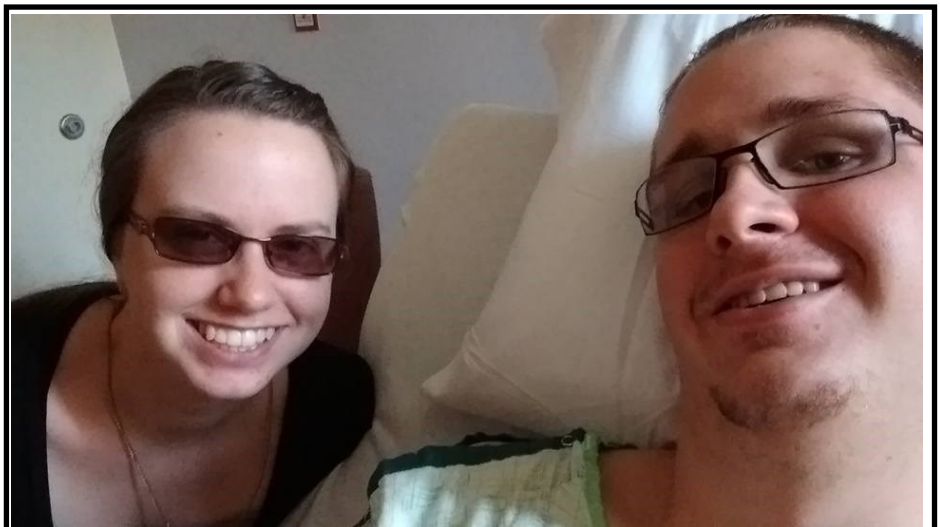


Our RGBM Staff Picture!

By: *Emily*

Our God is Good, All the Time! (An Update on Health) Continued

...was on my stomach and they opened from the back. When the surgeon opened me up, he was surprised to not see any tumor where it looked like it should have been on the MRI. What was discovered was that the tumor rather than being on top of my spine was underneath, so in order to remove it they had to push my spine to one side. Despite all of these things, the surgeon did an exceptional job as the hand of the Great Physician guided his. I was awake that afternoon; fully responsive and able to move my extremities. A fun fact is that Emmy and I celebrated our 3 month anniversary in the ICU! On the 13th I checked out of the hospital under my own power.



We celebrated our 3 month anniversary in the ICU!

Nineteen days after my operation, school started again. When I was signing up for classes in April I only had peace about signing up for seven credit hours for the upcoming semester, so the course load was not beyond my abilities to handle. (God's hand was even in that!) I was unable to drive at the time, so I was very blessed to have an awesome wife and mom who were willing and able to bring me to class the first couple of weeks of class. Several weeks after I checked out from the hospital I went in to see the surgeon so he could look at my incision and to see how it was healing. He cleared me to drive and even said that because I was healing so well I could just...

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Our God is Good, All the Time! (An Update on Health) Continued

...continue with my day to day tasks as physical therapy! Which is a huge blessing because we don't have to deal with the costs of doing a course of physical therapy.

My days consist of working in my capacity coordinating fellowship among the students, staff, and community, studying in the evenings, attending classes on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and spending time with my gorgeous wife and cute little dog Chloe. There are many exciting things occurring at the coffee shop! We are getting ready to expand the kitchen and the shop's square footage, this will allow us to better serve the community that we are forming! One of our alumni has a ministry to Muslims and one of the manners in which he evangelizes them is by sitting down with them and discussing the Bible with them. He was arranging with one of the people who he does this and the person asked specifically to meet in the Koinonia because he felt that it was a safe, and welcoming place for them to discuss the Bible. This week we are serving the refreshments for a Bible conference that we are hosting here at the school also! I feel incredibly blessed to be involved in such a wonderful ministry! Please pray that God will continue to use Koinonia Koffe as a place to meet around God's Word.



Praise God for our new cute little puppy "Chloe"!

By: *Nathan*

Praises!

- Praise for the expansions that will soon be happening in the Coffee shop!
- For God's provision!
- For God's guiding in Nathan's surgery!
- For wonderful prayer partners and supporters!
- For a cute puppy named "Chloe"!
- For our Winter Volunteers!
- For Emily's new printer!
- For the construction that is under way on the RGBM Campus!
- For refreshing times in God's Word!
- For being staff here at RGBM during such an exciting time, when God is working so mightily!
- That our support level has risen to above 10%!



Praise God for our Winter Volunteer's! Mr. Thiessen (on the right) built these beautiful cabinets for Emily's office!



Emily's New Printer

Prayer Items:

- Fruitfulness and joy in ministry
- Wisdom as we grow in our marriage relationship.
- That Christ and His kingdom would continue to be our Priority.
- For times of rest (both physical and spiritual) in our busy lives.
- For our support as we continue to raise the fund we require.
- Healing for us both as we recover from spinal problems.