

January 2019

News From The Mudges

Voice mail Tuesday Dec 18th 10:25 am: *"Carolyn, I have fallen and I think I broke my hip. Fortunately the maintenance guy came in and he's called for the ambulance."*

I had been researching last minute Christmas gifts on-line and did not hear the phone ring. I did hear the voice mail beep and went to see who had called. Seeing my mother's name, I assumed she was returning a call I had made to her 45 minutes earlier. Listening to the message above I was shocked to hear her calm voice saying the words we've known could come but hoped to never hear.

Jim, still recovering from a sinus infection, jumped out of bed and we drove the hour south to the hospital where we found mom waiting patiently in the ER. Due to a busy schedule at the hospital, the surgery to put a rod in her femur and a pin to hold the bone in place didn't happen until after 7pm. Through it all mom had a cheerful attitude. By Saturday she was moved to a rehab facility. At the first care conference we had on January 8th, we were surprised by how much progress she had made in recovering. They are anticipating she will be discharged by the end of January.

Proverbs 16:9 says, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."* There is no certainty for what a day will bring or how quickly your priorities and plans can change. Christmas celebrations were not exactly as we planned but we are thankful. It could have been so much worse.

PRAISE GOD for his grace and sovereign care for Mom. Also for the prayers of so many who love and appreciate her trust and faith in in the Lord.

Jim and I decided not to cancel our trip plans to visit Jeffrey and Emily in Wheaton, IL on Dec. 27th thanks to a wonderful offer by a friend and former neighbor of Mom's to check in on her during our absence. We had a marvelous time with our terrific adult children who blessed us with rest, great meals, fun activities, and sharing their lives for a week. We returned refreshed.



PRAISE GOD for the renewing time we enjoyed with Jeffrey and Emily.

PRAY for them to continue to trust God for the various hard things in their lives as they serve Him.

Challenges in 2019

Special Prayer Points:

- * Pray the Lord would help us as we assist Carolyn's mother during this transition period as we prepare to live together again.
- * Pray for Jim as he checks the Gela language translation of the Book of Daniel.
- * Pray for our home church as we continue the final building phase of a ministry center.
- * Pray for Ezra who is slow to restart work on his first draft of the Gospel of Luke in Hoava.
- * Pray for the Lord to direct the matching of each volunteer mentor with appropriate students.

Decisions we have made: Years ago we lived with Carolyn's mom and dad to help her care for him from 2010-13. After he passed away in November 2013 from dementia and cancer, we decided to keep the house just in case it was later needed to care for Carolyn's aging mother. She is now 92, and although she is making very good progress regaining some of the skill necessary for independent living, she is not yet walking without a walker. She will also need some assistance for other things for the immediate future and possibly longer. The handicap friendly house we lived in before has been rented, and we have recently asked the rental management company to terminate the lease with the current renters so that we can prepare the house to move back there with Carolyn's mother. The house will need repairs, repainting and carpet cleaning. It will not be available until March.

Translation work with Ezra needs to regain momentum after the long Christmas holidays in the Solomon Islands.

Consultant checking progress for Daniel in the Gela language.

Involvement in our local church with Jim's position as elder and lay preacher. We are hopeful the building project will be finished by mid-year.

Carolyn's participation on the leadership team of the local mentor program Amigo Tutor. Churches in our small community of Mattawa, Washington are working together to start a mentoring program for students who are at risk at the local primary school.

We want to thank all of you who are partnering with us in our Wycliffe ministry through prayer and giving. Your on-going partnership is vital as we make this move to be able to care for Carolyn's mom in addition to continuing to carry out our Wycliffe ministry —Jim's as translation consultant and Carolyn's as public relations specialist for the Solomon Islands Group of SIL.

**In the strength of His power,
Jim and Carolyn Mudge**

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