

Subj: Brandon's surgery; Doug's father
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Hi, all!

Except for four hours at work, Dan and I (also Brandon's parents and Laura's friend Tyra) have been at the hospital since 7:30 a.m. 'til nine tonight. Thanks for your prayers and expressions of concern. So far it looks as though Brandon's surgery was a success. He can now easily wiggle all his toes, and he says the pain he feels now is from the surgery and not the bone pressing on his nerve. The surgery took three hours, as forecast. He has been in a lot of discomfort and went through three kinds of medication before morphine finally offered him some peace. He tried drinking a little orange juice--a mistake. He's been very nauseous and pretty miserable. Laura is staying there all night with him. Dr. Bacon said all went very well, and he should be better within three months. They would have had him walking around tonight already if his stomach were more settled.

Dr. Bacon says he used a procedure that was OK'd by the FDA within the last six months. It involved taking bone from his pelvis and injecting it into tube-screws about the size of his little finger to fortify two fractures in his back, before they were also braced. They also totally removed a ruptured disk. Brandon has an incision down his back that is about a foot long, and they have these squeeze tubes on his feet that alternately pump the blood in his feet to help prevent blood clots--something we've also

never seen before. Laura has a lot of faith. After that marvelous blessing Brandon got the night before the surgery from Dan and Roger Woodruff (Brandon's father spoke), she said all fear left her. It was a fantastic blessing. I don't think Roger left a cell in Brandon's body unblessed.

Keep Doug, Nancy and family in your prayers, too. Doug and Nancy spent much of the day with Doug's father in the rest home--he was not expected to last through the day, according to Mom, who went over there this morning to tend Keslee. I just called Carli and she said he is still hanging in there, but that old age is taking its severe toll.

I saw Schindler's List last night for the first time (NBC TV version). Friend Diane Knight brought me over a tape of the book after I had eye surgery and had to stay in a dark room for a while, so I had some preview. It brought back mission memories of my nine months in Nueremberg, Germany--purportedly Hitler's favorite city. We heard some amazing stories from Christians there about some of the ways they hid Jews during the persecutions. There was also a lot of denial among former Nazi officers we met. One family told us how their daughter was taken into the square, had her head shaved, and was beaten because she tried to help a Jewish friend. It's hard to believe something like this could happen in such recent history. Sobering stuff. Definitely inspires me to try and curb my own barbarian impulses.

Thanks again for your faith and prayers. The power when an entire family joins together in prayer is almost tangible--means everything to us. That's it for now.

Love, Sherlene

Much love,

Ginger