

## SURGERY AND STAFF CONFERENCE



Thank you so much, everyone, for praying for me, my surgery, God's work in me, peace, a good outcome, healing and recovery. So glad to say the Lord answered our prayers.

My pituitary adenoma surgery was July 12th. I was scheduled to check-in at 5:45 a.m., so I was up at 4:30 to get ready and go. The schedule was for a 6:30 a.m. MRI to see how the tumor was doing, followed by the brain surgery.

Thanks to everyone's prayers, I felt encouraged and peaceful. Then began our "longest day." At 11 a.m. the nurse called me to the pre-op room to get all wired up, and then at 1 p.m. they took me in for the MRI. We were thankful that dear friends came and visited us in the afternoon, helping

pass the time pleasantly. We learned my surgery was the 5th and last one of the day for my surgeon. The surgery before mine ended up taking 3 and a half hours! But we were encouraged when the doctor came to see me around 5, looking bright and eager. At long last, I was wheeled off to surgery at 7 p.m.

Everything went smoothly and successfully! They went in through my right nostril and up the nasal passage to the base of the brain, cut in and removed the tumor. The tumor was filled with liquid, so the doctor said the "balloon" popped, once they cut into it. They did scrape out all that they could of the tumor and sent it to be tested. It was benign, so we are praising God for that!

I was moved to the recovery room at 8:30 pm. I was groggy, but I did get to see Rochelle and say good night before she headed home with our daughter Melissa and her husband Ben who had come for the evening. After they left I was waiting on my room, a nice large one in the brain trauma ICU where I arrived at 1 a.m. It was a long day!



During recovery we watched the Staff Conference online!

By Friday, the doctor came and said that I could go home! Praise God! I was so happy to get home and sleep in my own bed. 6 foot 5 inches is a bit long for a hospital bed - haha!

So far there is no change to my vision, please pray for that. The doctor said that vision often takes time to come back to normal.

I'm halfway through my recovery time, the headaches are mostly gone, and strength is returning well, so I'll be back to work soon.

Thanks again for your prayers!

## Scenes from the US Staff Conference



Our happy granddaughter Erin!

Rochelle and I missed out on so many special visits with staff friends and the many seminars at our US Staff Conference in Fort Collins, CO, where 5000 staff and partners gathered in July to learn, grow and connect with each other.

Through the recovery time, we did enjoy getting to see the major sessions online. Partnering and sharing with more of the body of Christ was an important theme. We were delighted to hear from spiritual leaders from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds and experiences.

It was encouraging to hear news from Steve Douglass, Cru's president (photo above right), of how God is moving us with the whole body of Christ to completion of the Great Commission!

For example:

- ⇒ *Globally our goal together is to see 5 million churches planted by 2020. Already 3 million have been planted through Cru & partners, the Jesus Film & partners, and through a major denomination's outreach efforts.*
- ⇒ *Because of the efforts of many Bible translation organizations, it is expected that there will be enough of the Bible translated in each of earth's 7000 languages to evangelize and plant churches within them by the year 2033.*
- ⇒ *12 years ago, mission agencies identified 639 people groups with populations of at least 100,000 who had no access to the Gospel of Jesus. Now 633 of those have some mission work started among them and only 6 remain unengaged.*
- ⇒ *In the last year Cru helped launch 1000 new campus movements in countries all over the world, mostly through the efforts of students.*

And so much more! We are trusting God with you to see the fulfillment of the Great Commission in our generation!

*Love in Jesus,  
Steve, Rochelle, and Josh*