

Dear Family and Friends,

Mere words cannot express how thankful we are for you all and for your precious prayers that you graciously bring before our Lord on our behalf. As you know, our time in the States has been an unexpectedly difficult journey. What a great blessing it has been to know that we are not alone in this world. God's grace has been so evident to us in the midst of such utter heart ache through the loving kindness that so many of you have shown to us. We want to thank each and every one of you for partnering with us and behaving as the Body of Christ is meant to behave. In 1Cor. 12:26 the apostle Paul reminds us that when one part of the Body suffers all the members suffer with it, and when one part is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Over the past 12 years we have rejoiced much together and continue to rejoice at what the Lord is doing in this ministry!

Admittedly, it has taken us by surprise that our furlough has been pebbled with so many sorrows and such heaviness of heart. Through it all, however, He has given us the grace to look to the Lord who is our strength and we thank you in advance for your love and support, and for your continued prayers for this very URGENT PRAYER REQUEST. On MARCH 26, Angela will be having her THIRD BRAIN SURGERY.

Thank you so much for your prayers for us and for Angela as she underwent her first 2 surgeries. They went extremely well; much better than any of the doctors or nurses had ever imagined! After each surgery she experienced some pain, but her recovery has been very rapid, with very little swelling. Angela was very alert and coordinated after each of the procedures. What an answer to prayer! These two surgeries, unfortunately, were not meant to grant any relief to Angela's situation, but were fact-finding in nature. Through these surgeries, however, they were able to pinpoint much more precisely what area of her brain the problem is coming from. They found that there are actually 2 scars on her brain that are causing partial complex focal seizures which manifest themselves as a tickling in her throat, her throat closing, and blacking out. It is not necessarily imperative that they remove the entire scar, but that they remove the origin of the area within the scar that is misfiring and causing the seizures. The findings from the first 2 surgeries show that they will be able to remove all of one of the scars; however, the second scar is located in an area of her brain that has a lot of vital functions. This being said, after studying deeply the findings, it looks as though the origin of misfiring of the second scar may lie within the first scared area that they can "easily" remove. So, the plan is to remove that area and not touch the other area so as to not risk permanently damaging her. This long and arduous path has been exhausting for Angela, and also for those of us who love her so. By His grace, we are reminded of His promises to us and are encouraged to press on with endurance. We have taken much comfort in Romans 8:26-28, where Paul declares, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His purpose*." What a blessed promise to us as believers in Christ!

Join us and PLEASE PRAY NOW AND MARCH 26th beginning at 5:30am Central time for the doctors to have SKILL and WISDOM as they operate on Angela. PRAY that she recovers well and is UNSCATHED and SEIZURE FREE. PRAY the LORD will grant Angela complete healing! We will leave Bozeman to drive to Rochester, MN on March 21st, as her preoperative appointment is on March 24th. They have told us to plan on staying at least a week in the hospital after the surgery.

Thank you, again, for your fervent prayers on our behalf. Let us praise the Lord together as the psalmist did in Psalm 103:2-4, "Praise the LORD, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits – Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."

Your servants, wrapped in His grace,  
Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua and Angela Caven

Praises and Prayers:

Praise God for successful first 2 surgeries for Angela.

Praise God for Jake and Josh's recent successes in school during this difficult time in life. Pray that they would continue to grow in their love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise God for the lovingkindness shown to us through the Body of Christ.

Please pray for the doctors to be guided by the Lord to be in His perfect will. Pray for skill, wisdom and discernment of every one of Angela's doctors. May this surgery completely rid her of all seizures!

Please pray for God's mercy to be upon us during this trial and for Him to heal her completely. May we have endurance to press on through this trial as we walk by faith and not by sight.

Pray that the surgery would not be too painful and that Angela would recover quickly.

Pray for us as we make decisions regarding what our roles and ministry will be while we are stateside and Angela is recovering. Please pray that God would make our path clear to us.

Pray that we would be satisfied with God and His plans, knowing that His grace is sufficient and He is good all the time.

Pray for God to provide for all of our needs, spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially.