



Who is God When Life Stinks?

Fervent Prayer!

NEVER, EVER will we forget the moment when the head physician of the hospital's Heart Surgery Center, plus another, well-respected Critical Care doctor stood around Bob's ICU bedside, held hands with us at and we all bowed together in prayer.

“Father, we don't know what to do, and we are depending on your help.” Wow! When the leading heart surgeon in town made that statement in prayer, tears tumbled from the corners of our eyes. This humble plea, from a highly skilled professional, spoke to the reality of how severe Bob's situation had become!

What was it that had these well-trained men so desperate for help?! In the follow-up stages of Bob's internal bleeding, a CAT scan had been done on his abdomen area to determine status of the healing. The scan showed that his bleeding had stopped, and although the large hematoma remained, something else very significant was MISSING! The “one size fits all” filter that was inserted into Bob's central vein was NO LONGER THERE! Apparently it did not secure properly.... and instead had travelled up the vein and moved to the edge of his heart! It was now precariously perched on the outside of his heart's right atrium!

This phenomenon had never before been experienced at our local hospital, even though over 2000 of these filter insertions had been done there. Urgently, heart specialist doctors were consulted, tests were run and Bob was carefully examined. There simply was no precedent for this and no one knew what to do. Rather than hearing excuses or empty promises, we were so thankful right now to hear our Christian doctors admit their lack of experience and humbly, urgently call on God for guidance.

Sandra, a friend of ours who works in this hospital, would stop by daily to check on us. Today, she just “happened” by during our prayer and started to leave, rather than interrupt. We insisted she stay as the doctor began to mention his desire to contact the best known heart expert at a University hospital 45 miles away. “Oh!”, our friend Sandra chimed in. “I used to work for him.”

You could see the relief on our surgeon's face at Sandra's comment. He had interrupted his busy heart surgery schedule to rush to Bob's bedside, desiring to figure out how to get Bob the help he so direly needed. Now we listened in awe as he authorized Sandra to get all of Bob's records and to contact this renown, university specialist. Within the hour Sandra was in her car, records in hand, and en route to the hospital miles away. She called this surgeon's office en route, and although he was not there, Sandra determined to hunt him down and personally deliver to him the DVD images of the errant filter. He needed to see for himself the pictures of Bob's heart and the precariously positioned filter.

Sandra somehow connected with the specialist—we never did ask how she found him. God miraculously moved in the life of this important university specialist's heart to interrupt his schedule and come meet with Sandra at the office. He said that he would agree to accept Bob at his hospital for "observation" purposes, as he also had not encountered an errant filter before.

It took several apprehensive hours before the news reached us that Bob would be transferred to a new hospital, in a new town, under care of this new specialist. We were relieved but acutely aware of the many unknowns ahead.

Through the humble prayers of gifted surgeons, and a desperate patient and his wife, to the roar of the ambulance which now took Bob to the newly assigned hospital, God was showing himself to be a loving father who responds to the fervent cries of his children.

"The fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much"
James 5:16

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