

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Coincidences: That is what we sometimes call them. However, knowing that our Sovereign God is in control of all things, including minutia in our lives; we can trust Him in all things. **Romans 8: 28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”** God mysteriously works in the lives of all peoples to further His work and to the leading of His will.

On Wednesday night, I woke up with a terrible pain in my back on the left side. A pain that I had never felt before. Piercing, acute, stabbing pain. I had difficulty breathing. Horrible pain. But, in about an hour it subsided. I was not sure what it was, but recalled that I had 16 kidney stones. I figured that one of them had left the kidney and was causing the pain.

I got up Thursday morning with a little, but not a lot of pain. I had a Military Honors Funeral at the Prairie Lea Cemetery at 11 o’clock in the morning. I felt a small pain, but nothing that would stop me from attending. I truly enjoy being a part of that organization. I got home about 1 in the afternoon. I changed clothes and sat down in the living room to rest. That is when the intense pain began. It doubled me over. More intense than the night before. After arguing with myself on what to do, I texted Karen and then called my Urologist. She told me to go immediately to the Emergency Room. Being that I am not too impressed with the hospital in Brenham, I drove myself in great pain to the E R at St Joseph in Bryan. Karen met me there and helped me into the hospital. They performed a C T scan and saw that my largest stone, 7 millimeters big had left my kidney and was lodged and blocking the tube that goes from my kidney to my bladder. They immediately took blood and urine samples and put me on a high dose of pain killers. They prescribed other meds which I would take and fill on Friday morning.

Friday morning, the Urologist called Karen at work to see what was going on. She was not there on Thursday evening. She told Karen to get me to her office as soon as possible. That was 7 in the morning. I must also tell you that Isaiah had asked to stay at a friends house over night on Thursday. The Lampe’s taking him in aided in our being able to get to the hospital.

I was still asleep at 7 on Friday morning and Karen could not wake me with the telephone. So she called our neighbor, Sasha Schulte. Sasha was up because she went to work at the post office only to find that she was not needed for the day. She was sitting in her vehicle wondering why she was awake that early for nothing. Sasha came over to the house and woke me up by ringing the doorbell and knocking on the door. She told me to call Karen as soon as possible.

Karen told me that my Urologist wanted to see me in her office and then admit me to the hospital for a procedure. Karen got a text from Carol asking how I was feeling and was there any thing that they could help with. Karen called back and told them what was going on and asked if they could take me to the hospital. They quickly responded with “yes, of course.” This all happened prior to my knowledge of what was going on. Jim, Carol and Sasha all knew what was going on prior to me knowing.

I called Karen and she told me what the doctor had said, and not to eat or drink anything. By the time I got up and dressed, Jim was at the house to take me to Bryan. I arrived at the doctor’s office and got into an examination room very quickly. Karen had told her boss what was going on and they gave her a break to be with me there. After a quick exam and a description of what procedure that they were going to do, I was taken to the hospital. The Urologist who both of us really like, told us that she might not be able to do the procedure because she was very busy in her office. Plus it was her birthday weekend, and she and her family had planned a small trip and overnight. Karen was with me. We checked in and were put in a prep room. They immediately prepared me for a stint procedure. That is, they put a small tube from the kidney to my bladder, going around the stone.

The stone completely blocked the tube and caused the kidney to swell and leak. More pain. The procedure went off without a hitch, and my Urologist came in to do the procedure. She took the time even though she was busy. Somehow the schedule worked out for her to attend.

I am at home on Saturday and writing this down not only to remember, but also to make it known to you, my Greenvine family, that God was involved in the unknown workings of the days and nights as we went through this time. Coincidence? I don’t think so! All the working of God in our lives to make sure that I could get quality medical care and ease my pain.

Sunday, Charles Stevens will preach for me. I don’t know now whether or not I will be in attendance. How I feel will determine that. I will continue this newsletter on Sunday afternoon.

Sunday afternoon: Now I sit at home all weekend in some pain. Sorry I couldn't make the morning meeting. Karen told me that it was good. I am especially thankful to Charles Stevens for taking the preaching time. I'm sure that if you were there, there was plenty to take in.

The verse that I started with is followed by another verse with some of the same vocabulary. Paul tells those Roman believers that God is not only in control of all things and is sovereign in all things, He is the gracious, loving Heavenly Father who cares for us so very much. **Romans 8: 32** says, **“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all — how will He not also, along with Him graciously give us all things?** To further the work of God in our lives, Paul ends with these words in verses 38 and 39: **“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

All that to say, even in our physical struggles and problems, God is always in control working out details so that His will is accomplished. All those variables that took place the last couple of days, no one could plan. I bless God that He is indeed in control. He is worth trusting. He is worth giving our very lives for. He is GOD!

Pray for the leaders and the children for these next two weeks at Camp Hope. praying in Greenvine that the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ will penetrate these young hearts. Blessings! Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Please remember to complete your information card for the directory.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Women's Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting June 8@6pm
- Woman's Bible Study -Saturday Morning 10am - Next meeting to be announced
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday June 29, @ 7am
 - Camp Hope meals - June 8 and 15. If you can be here to help serve please contact Charlotte
- _ Remember to fill your baby bottles and return on Father's day.
- _ Tickets on sale for Bush's chicken dinner. Tickets are \$10 and will benefit the Burton Bridge Ministry
 - Dates are June 24-26 - Brenham location only - tickets are in the office
- Southern Association annual meeting - Saturday June 26
 - Congregation will supply sides and desserts for lunch - see Charlotte to sign up to cook
- 4th of July Barbecue- Sunday July 4th - 5pm - dark - Stay tuned for more details

Prayer Requests

Jack as he is recovering from surgery and for treatments coming up.

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Patty's Brother Scott - Recovering from surgery

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri has been diagnosed with cancer. She will be starting chemo prior to surgery then more chemo and possibly radiation. Please pray for strength as she walks through this and prayers for Gerri as well as she she helps Terri through this process.

Gerri Smart has seen another eye doctor and he wants to hold off on another eye surgery for now. Please pray for healing in Gerri's eye.

Cliff Reed's dad is recovering from a UTI (He was hospitalized earlier this week)

Juliette - recovering from gun shot wound - she has been able to go home.

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Cliff's dad has dementia and is not doing well.

Bobbie Schulte - Doing better

Mandy Forester - Upcoming Brain surgery

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Charlotte's grandson Brayden - He is struggling with this next phase of his life and what he is going to do.

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Chain of Love - Pray for the children, the house parents, the teachers and pastors that work with them

Sandra - housemother who passed away from Covid

Valdir - COL Maintenance - has been released from hospital and is continuing to recover at home

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:

Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson