

## Stacy's Surgery - Oct 9th Update

Pohl's "Post-Surgery Update"  
October 9th – St. Louis, Missouri

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
For His steadfast love endures forever!  
Psalm 118:29

Dear Family & Friends,

Thanks to all who have been praying for Stacy! We praise God that her "thoracic outlet decompression" surgery went very well on Friday (Oct 7th). During the 9 hour procedure, her first rib was removed and a prominent place on the back side of her collar bone was "shaved off" a bit. This will allow her vein to pass through this area freely without being compressed or pinched (which is what originally caused the damage and clotting in her vein). Also, about an inch of the damaged (right subclavian) vein was replaced with a vein "harvested" from her right leg.

The day after surgery (Saturday), Stacy was in pretty good spirits, but in a fair amount of pain. Today (Sunday) she was feeling pretty rough (groggy, dizzy and sleep deprived), and she received a couple units of blood to counteract anemia (due to some blood loss during surgery). Tonight, however, she's feeling a bit better and thankfully, they just moved her from the "observation unit" to a regular room – so hopefully she can catch up a bit on her sleep!

At this point the main thing Stacy needs to work on is improving her lung capacity (by coughing and breathing exercises). Lord willing, depending on her progress, she may be able to go home as early as this Tuesday or Wednesday?! Then she'll rest at home and start her physical therapy appointments. So far, they haven't changed from their initial estimate of a 2-3 month recovery. But we should get a better idea in a week or so, after Stacy has her first follow-up appointments with the physical therapist and surgeon.

Visits: Now that we're in a regular room and she's feeling a bit better, Stacy would be very encouraged by your phone calls, notes and/or and visits! She asks though, that you just give us a quick call before you visit, to make sure she's feeling up to it - my cell phone is (314) 324-3951, or call her hospital room and ask for one of us: (314) 362-5819. (See below for hospital directions and other contact info while we're in the States.)

Please pray with us...

1. That Stacy would heal well and experience as little pain as possible as she breaths and moves. And also, that there would be no major complications during recovery.
2. That we might be a ray of God's hope to others in the hospital.

We praise God

1. For a successful surgery and the excellent medical attention she has received. And that so far there have been no sign of any significant complications.
2. That the girls are adapting well to life in St. Louis. (They've been enjoying loads of time with their 4 grandparents and at church activities!)

Thank you all for your prayers and notes of encouragement!

Love in Christ,  
Craig

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- October 10, 2005