

Dear family and friends, greetings:

We have had a major development since my last writing. Two weeks ago this Friday, while working with a CRWRC volunteer crew reroofing a house that has been donated to the denomination for use by furloughed missionary families, I slipped on an icy tarp and fell eight feet or so onto a concrete sidewalk. Although many of you know this by now, especially family members, Madison friends and ministry partners, I didn't write immediately because I wanted to have as complete a report as possible on my condition and prognosis for recovery.

I want to begin by praising God for even being able to sit at a desk and write this letter. The total extent of my injuries is two slightly broken heels. I was, of course, checked from head to toe for other injuries while in the emergency room. No chance was taken on a hidden neck or back injury (I probably had twenty five or thirty x-rays, only eight of which were of my feet). At the time, I was put in two lower leg casts and given a wheelchair. The orthopedic specialist, whom I did not meet at the time, determined immediately that there was probably no need for surgery.

My first visit to him yesterday confirmed that prognosis - and it got better. The cast was taken off my right foot and left off! My left foot must remain immobilized and non-weight bearing for at least another four weeks. However, he quietly encouraged me with the only somewhat guarded prediction that on the basis of the mobility and lack of pain I have experienced, it is likely I will heal without residual or chronic pain, often associated with such injuries.

I began putting a small amount of weight on my right foot today. AND, I took my first full-body shower in two weeks - still sitting in a chair, of course, but my left foot boot can be removed for washing and exercise. I've had my first two phys. home rehab visits, so I'm working to see as quick a turnaround on this thing as is humanly possible with the measure of divine intervention and medical assistance offered me.

I DO want to thank all of you who have been praying for me and Brenda as we have worked our way to this point. It has been a remarkably smooth adjustment, with the not so small irony that I, not Brenda (who has had two knee replacements and had polio as a child), am the first to really use our handicap ramp. As you might imagine, I could not have a more composed and supportive and understanding partner than her!

We are being realistic, however, about our plans for departure to Uganda. This injury WILL put us behind in our preparations -especially packing and clearing out our huge old home. We have not put a new date on the trip and we still hope to depart in January, but there will probably be some delay.

One of the blessings of the injury is that it is forcing me to sit down and make calls to churches that have supported ministries I have been involved in in the past. I have also been identifying foundations that might take an interest in the KIBBUSE Vocational School. I have also contacted Kool Toyota to get information about purchases of quality

vehicles in Africa and have been graciously responded to by a staff member there (the Kools are a Christian family, with many members in the ministry).

So, we are greatly encouraged as we move ahead on the LORD'S timetable. Slowing down is not easy, but is very good for me. Hopefully, it will help me see more clearly, follow more nearly and love more dearly our faithful Savior and wonderful Lord Jesus Christ. How fully we have sensed His presence and power through the past two weeks!

Blessings and love to you all,

Bob, for both of us