

My dear loved ones,

I cannot begin to thank you all enough for the continued love and prayers that you all have sent on my behalf. Know that I was comforted in my time of fear as I knew you all were praying diligently for me.

I was very nervous before my surgery this time which is very uncommon for me. I requested to see my Doctor before I was put to sleep only because she was the only familiar thing in that cold room to me. Everything was different and that I believe added to my nervousness. Martha (My doctor) stood by my side holding my hand as they gave me the anesthesia. I can remember the feelings of nervousness and fear leave me as I felt more and more drowsy and peaceful. However everything quickly changed and I experienced something very different for the first time in my life. I realized I was not able to take a breath and I got very scared. I tried to struggle but I couldn't move my arms, I couldn't talk, I couldn't open my mouth. I was struggling inside but not moving an inch. I realized that to the outside looking in I was under, but from the inside looking out, I was still alert and aware of everything. At that very moment, I remember saying to myself, "Please father do not let me go through this surgery awake let me sleep please let me sleep", and I lay fully alert but fully asleep not able to breath or tell anyone I couldn't. Then my inward flailing suddenly became very calm and I remember saying, "God I am yours, do with me what you will." I then felt the airway tube being inserted into my throat and the apparatus to regulate my breathing being attached to the tube. Then I felt my lungs fill with air, then another breath then another, I counted them. It was the strangest feeling being completely helpless and unable to do anything. But at the same time I felt closer to God than I have ever felt in my life. This I now know is what he means when he says, rely fully and completely on me for all things. I was in his hands, a place I have been many times, but this is the first time I saw it with different eyes. I continued to count the breaths, 4, 5 and then complete darkness, silence, nothing. I know that it sometimes takes events such as these to get messages across to us. Especially the thick headed ones like myself. But if you are one who easily learns from others experiences, let this message stick through all things. When God tells us to trust fully in Him, He means Trust Fully in Him. I thank God for this event that has helped me to know, I will trust fully in him for all things.

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. "

Thank you for your continued prayers. The easy part is over and the hard part has begun. I am home now after 2 full days in the hospital. The hardest part for me is turning over in bed and walking. Of course for those who understand this feeling, it feels like your stomach will fall off your body if you don't hold it tight to you when you walk. I have a lot of help here at the house and many who are eager to give their share of attention to me. Eliana laid with me today and watched a movie as I drifted in and out. Daniel and Alana brought me flowers. Samuel gave me kisses and told me he loved me and My sweet Nathan, well I wouldn't have made it this far if not for him.

And to my dear loves ones, my God keep you close to his side this evening and fill you heart with joy.

Love in Him,
Carina