



Dear Friends & Family –

Greetings from St. Louis, Missouri – where we’ve recently enjoyed 10+ inches of snow, shivered through the “Polar Vortex” and today are enjoying a brief respite of Spring-like weather! We trust that you are doing well and wanted to bring you a few ministry praises and request prayer for Stacy’s surgery.

Prayer for Surgery Monday (Feb 4)! – As we mentioned in our last letter, we traveled to St. Louis in mid-December, primarily to confirm Stacy’s diagnosis and seek the best treatment for her Thoracic Outlet Syndrome (TOS). After trying a month physical therapy (which proved ineffective) and receiving the results of a CT Venogram, in late January she finally received a definitive diagnosis of Venous & Neurogenic TOS on her left side. This means that her subclavian vein and brachial plexus nerve are squeezed as they pass through a tight opening between the clavicle and first rib (the thoracic outlet) – headed from the neck area toward her left arm. With her arm at her side, the vein is 50% compressed; when raised, it can become completely blocked.

Surgery is the only definitive solution. So, tomorrow (Feb 4), Stacy will undergo surgery, and we are thankful that the Lord has opened the door for Dr. Robert Thompson (who treated Stacy’s TOS on the right side in 2005) to treat her condition with a TOS surgery on the left side. The TOS decompression surgery involves the removal of the first rib and two muscles, as well as the repair of the subclavian vein. Stacy expects to be in the hospital 4 or 5 days (so, if you’re in St. Louis – visitors are welcome!). We hope to return to Chile after about 6 weeks of recuperation and physical therapy.

Ministry Praises

- ✓ Thank you for praying for our church’s annual retreat in mid-November (pictured above). We praise the Lord that about 70 attended, including three new families invited by friends!
- ✓ Please pray as plans come together for our new ministry year in Chile, which starts in March. There seems to be an increased level of gospel partnership, strategic direction and cohesion among the leaders, for which is a huge blessing!



Tradition! Last week we were captivated by a performance of “Fiddler on the Roof” at the Fox Theater, in St. Louis.

Together for the Gospel,
Craig, Stacy, Karis & Aimee



Cell Phone (until March 2019): 314-255-9760 E-mail: cpohl@mtwsa.org

Donate on-line [by clicking here](#) (MTW Account #16019)

If you would like to be removed from our list, or need to change your e-mail, please let us know.