

October 25, 2008 – Kim's Mom is near death

Dear All,

Our lives have been thrown into quite a whirlwind in the past few days. We received word from Kim's sister on Wednesday the 22nd, that his mother is failing rapidly and they expect her to live only a few more days. Her organs are starting to shut down, she's talking very rarely, and still hardly eating at all. Everything "normal" stopped and we went into fast forward motion making plans to get back to Ohio as soon as we could.

The details of the past two days have been overwhelming, yet God has blessed our socks off as we've seen His people come to our aid and do amazing things to help us get ready to go. A plane was able to pick up Kim from the village and get him back to Ukarumpa this afternoon. I have been busy packing up the house and packing suitcases. Friends have done everything from hanging out my laundry to cleaning out the fridge to booking our flights and accommodations for us. What would we do without the Body of Christ???

So...we're coming home! We leave Friday afternoon for Port Moresby and then on to Cairns, Australia that evening. After a short overnight there (we head to the airport at 5am!) we fly on to Brisbane, Los Angeles, and into Cleveland, arriving late Saturday afternoon your time. Not sure at this point where we are staying, but Rachel is making those arrangements for us from that end. Our #1 prayer is that God would allow us the privilege of arriving in time to spend some last days with Mom and be with her when she leaves for Heaven. Many painful days ahead. We have no idea at all how long we will stay.

Kim's Dad is also in very poor health and actually in the hospital currently. We assume he will need us there with him for a while. We will keep you all informed as we figure those details out. For now, we're just trying to get home! Thanks for prayers for our safety as we travel, endurance (we are both exhausted), and comfort in our grief. By the way, I am recovering amazingly fast from my shingles attack and can only believe that the Lord has intervened on that issue due to this next "trial" that has come upon us! He is so faithful!

With love,
Annie (and Kim)

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Update:

We've arrived in Norwalk and Mom is still with us, but I don't think she recognized us. We will try again later this morning. She is not eating or drinking anything now. Her heart rate had dropped to 50+ and the blood pressure to 64/30. She is now on "palliative care" - respond with comfort. I wrote a song for my Mom last week before we had any idea what was about to happen. Annie had just been evacuated from the village with an "undiagnosed illness" that turned out to be Shingles and I was in the village by myself. At any rate, the song is from Psalm 27 - one of Mom's favorites. I am praying that I will be able to sing it to her and that she will have some lucid moments before the Lord takes her so we can tell her how much we love her and tell her "See you soon!"

It's almost 3am - I slept for a couple of hours but woke up and couldn't get back to sleep so I thought I would try to get this off to you (finally). We have a 'temporary' cell phone should you need to contact us: 419-577-5733. At this point we have no idea how long we will be in the States. Thanks for praying and giving and caring for us.

Kim