

December 2013

Dear Family and Friends,

The day before Thanksgiving our oldest daughter, Katie, was diagnosed with Epilepsy. It was quite a shock to all of us. We have no history of the disorder in either of our families. Katie had her first seizure on November 5th while we were at a family reunion. She had an EEG to follow up on that and it came back abnormal. Her doctor ordered an MRI, which was normal. As tough and life altering as this diagnosis is it is still so much better than the other possible diagnosis which was a deep brain tumor. We are following up with another neurologist for a second opinion but the diagnosis is 90% certain.

Katie is on medication to limit the electrical impulses in her brain and control the seizures. It makes her very drowsy which is not desirable for a junior in college who also works three jobs! She cannot drive and cannot stay alone. This is very tough for an independent young woman who has lived on her own for two years. Right now her attitude is really terrific; but we would ask for prayers for her as the reality of the changes really begin to sink in.

All in all this has been a tough year for our family. Nick's mom passed away quite suddenly last November. Since that time Nick has had pneumonia, we had two serious automobile accidents, Katie had a young man stalking her at her previous college, a dear friend passed away unexpectedly, Emily's new testing revealed a true level of her future limitations and our ministry has taken us traveling in nineteen states since the first of the year. Needless to say, ending the year with this change in Katie's life is quite a lot.

Friends, supporters and family ask us how we are coping. We look at each other and answer as King David did, ***"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." - Ps 27:13-14***

As we enter this Christmas season we hope that you too can say that your hope is in the Lord and that your expectation is joy. God is good all the time and all the time God is good. This is the true reason for celebration. It is the only reason for Hope.

Have a Blessed Christmas, friend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick & Lisa". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Nick" and "Lisa" connected by an ampersand. The ink is a vibrant blue color.

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