

March 25, 2021

Norkenzie Christian Church
2530 Crescent Avenue
Eugene, OR 97132

Dear Family at Norkenzie Christian Church
Mission's Committee

I apologize for the lengthy letter, but I believed you would like to know what happened.

This in some ways, is a difficult letter to write to you. Due to the fairly rapid decline and especially during the last four weeks or so, I was not able to communicate with you in regards to Lowell's health. I know the news may have come to you as quite a surprise, and I am sorry for that. However, I am now going to give you a synopsis of the progression of Lowell's health.

On August 19, 2019, Lowell had a third heart ablation to try to stop the atrial fibrillation he had been experiencing for years, but had now become a more chronic problem. He had one of the leading electrophysiologists in the country that did the procedure. The medical staff at the hospital were being very diligent about watching and/or testing for any blood clots. He experienced a lot of pain following the procedure.

On August 25, 2019, he had a major stroke on the right side of his brain, that caused lack of function on the left side of his body. He went through intensive speech therapy for the inability to swallow, intensive occupational therapy to attempt to bring function back into his left shoulder and arm, and intensive physical therapy to gain function in his hip, leg and foot. He improved more rapidly than the doctors and therapists thought that he would. He was in hospital inpatient neuro rehab for five weeks, after which time he was transferred to an inpatient rehabilitation and skilled nursing center. He was there for one hundred days, again, making good progress.

He was discharged to home, and we started outpatient hospital neuro rehab. He was there from January, 2020 until October, 2020...again, making good progress. However, in August of 2020, he had an episode at home that caused us to have him transported to the ER. While at the ER, he had a grand mall seizure. He was then in the hospital for five days, while they were trying to find out what had caused the seizure. The CT scan showed no new stroke. It appeared that he had lost some of the strength of the left side. He would have periodic episodes, which we think may have been mild seizures after that.

When discharged from the hospital neuro rehab, we acquired Home Health. He continued with therapy, and although he was able to walk with a quad cane, he never gained back the strength in the left leg and hip, that he had had before the grand mall seizure. He was gaining some movement in his left arm.

We would go to the hospital neuro rehab where he had been an outpatient, so that he could practice walking two to three times a week. On August 8, 2020, we were walking in the rehab, and his left leg gave out and he fell, fracturing his left hip. He had surgery on the 9th. Post surgery, he had a lot of pain, and they were treating him with relatively strong medications. He was in the hospital for ten days, after which time, he was transferred to the same inpatient rehab he had been in shortly after the stroke. Due to the deep freeze temperatures, snow and ice, etc., we experienced here in Texas, I was not able to visit him the last few days he was in the hospital. Then due to COVID I was not able to visit him in the rehabilitation and skilled nursing center until he had been there a few days, and then only for brief visits.

While in the rehabilitation and skilled nursing center, he experienced a mild subacute stroke in the same area as his previous stroke. He was then transferred to the hospital, where he stayed until discharged to our home. His decline was rapid once he was transferred to the rehabilitation and skilled nursing center. The intense pain never went away, it would only be dulled by the medication.

We were privileged to have him home six days before he passed. After the first day home, he became less and less responsive. We were blessed to have had a wonderful hospice staff that cared for him with such compassion. The last three days we had a nurse on for 24hrs/day.

Even though he had not gained back the strength he had before the seizure, we believed that after surgery for the hip fracture, he would be back in inpatient rehab for therapy, and ultimately back to outpatient rehab therapy. That was not to be...

His desire for quite some time was that the Lord would come and take him home. He had suffered so much with headaches and body pain, and lack of good function. On March 16th, he got his wish, the Lord came and took him home...

I am doing well...the heart pain is there and I am missing him so much, and yet through the prayers, well wishes, love and concern from so many like yourselves...the Lord is sustaining me and giving me strength. I also have had and do have a family that has been so supportive. Some live away, and others are close. This too has been tremendous.

My desire is to honor Lowell, and I believe the best way I can do that is to continue being affiliated with the mission, and continuing my counseling ministry through the mission. I have already spoken with those in the mission, and they have with open arms, asked me to stay. I have also heard from one of our church supporters, and an individual supporter, and they are going to continue supporting me.

I am delighted to have your continued support, it is an honor for me to have you on my team. I have continued working over the past year and a half, and now, I am able to increase the numbers of clients that I can serve. Very likely there will be some travel, since I am also the counselor for one of the departments at the mission. This department sends out college age interns for an eight week internship to other countries. There is a one week orientation at the mission before they leave the end of May, and a week debrief when they return from their assignments at the end of July. At this debrief time, I meet with each intern individually. I also do follow-up if an intern has experienced some difficulties while on assignment and needs some additional care. I also have international clients that I serve through Skype, FaceTime and emails. I will also make myself available to the mission for any other assignments they may have for me.

Thank you for your love, care, prayers and financial support you have given to Lowell and I over the many years...and for your faithfulness particularly over the past year a half. May God richly bless you, dear family...I am so blessed...



Blanche