



the STORY BOARD

October 2017

ISSUE 14

Dear Friends...

Instead of an update, I just needed to write you a letter. Things have been a tad unusual the past few months, and I wanted to share with you about what has been going on...and apologize for not keeping you more informed.

At the beginning of July, my mom started having some pretty serious back and stomach pain, and ended up in the ER a few times over the course of a few weeks before the real reason showed up. An outpatient surgery was scheduled for the end of July. Since she had this done once before, we thought it would be a relatively simple procedure that would have mom back on her feet within days. However, things went a bit south.

Several heavy things happened all at once for mom—from pancreatitis to a fractured vertebrae—which had her in the hospital for three weeks. Another three weeks were spent at a rehab facility before she was finally able to come back home. Her recovery was progressing slowly but surely when another procedure was required. This one went very well, but mom's back started hurting again. So the next week we went back to the hospital. They found three more fractured vertebrae, and said they would do that surgery within a few days. But as they scanned her back, something unusual showed up regarding her gallbladder. That had to be taken out first to reduce the risk of infection in her back with that surgery. Her gallbladder was quite diseased, which required a week of heavy antibiotics before they could do the back surgery. Then there were breathing issues. Fluid had to be drained from her chest, then the back surgery went through last Friday. More pain, slow progress...and more breathing issues. A long term drain has now been put in to help keep the fluid off her chest. After these three weeks in the hospital again, We are ever hopeful that she will be able to come home in the next few days.

In the midst of all this, countless Hugs and Kisses (scarves and hats) continue to be made for (and given out to) those in need of warmth, many books are donated for the children, connections are made, and The Encouragement Project continues to run...all as the result of God's incredible goodness and blessings. Thank you for your prayers and support for this work!

These have been difficult and heavy months for all of us. Pain is exhausting, and watching/helping someone in pain also wears one thin. However, God has been so faithful to carry us each day, to provide what we need, to give us rest, to let us see Him working in this situation and in people around us, and to show us over and over that He is trustworthy.

I kept putting off writing this letter because something else would come up which would make what I had to tell you change or become old news very fast. Hopefully, we are to a stable point for a while. We would very much appreciate your prayers for mom in the coming weeks and months. God has brought her through a lot lately, and we are so thankful.



Many blessings to you all... *Stephanie*

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with the financial gifts and donations of those of you who are interested in helping and encouraging others through this ministry. Gifts of any amount are helpful, and go toward seeing believers encouraged, and those in need helped. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. Will you join us?

Checks made payable to "The Encouragement Project" can be mailed to: **The Encouragement Project**
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA 30009

If you prefer to set up a recurring monthly gift, please let us know and we will send you the banking information.

The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

CONTACT US...WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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