

THE KINGDOM ^OF GOD

in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Fall, 2019

Though outwardly we are wasting away ...

Many of you have already heard that I experienced a stroke a day after arriving in Cambodia. It left a 3/16 inch dead spot in my medulla that caused partial paralysis in my right side. Cambodia doesn't have special stroke units that can inject "clot busters" into blood vessels during the first four hours of a stroke—not that it would have mattered, since the stroke happened while I was asleep. We couldn't even leave immediately for a hospital in Bangkok since our passports were at the visa renewal office. We kept reminding ourselves that God is in complete control of all bad events and this was a bad event.

The stroke left me with around 50% strength in my right arm and leg, enough to allow me to walk (with a limp), climb stairs slowly, and write poorly. Typing was difficult, and balance seemed to be almost nonexistent. Strangely enough, I could still do 20 pushups and carry a 50 pound suitcase, but had a hard time lifting a heavy coffee cup to my mouth. I learned that there are different kinds of muscles and muscle activity and the stroke affected them differently. We were mostly relieved that speech was almost unaffected, as strokes in the medulla often cause speech problems.

We're so happy and relieved to report that, after just 3 weeks, I'm now up to around 75-80% strength on my right side and can walk with no obvious limp (unless I get tired). I can type almost normally. My "spring muscles" that explode with action (such as my calf muscle when I jump or my finger muscles when I write or type quickly) were almost useless 3 weeks ago. Now I can spring up stairs normally. I ran 20 flights of stairs yesterday. We attribute this quick recovery to God's kind response to the prayers of

thousands of Christians in multiple languages in nearly every continent.

God provides all good things and controls all bad things.

—Bruce Ware's summary of Genesis
50:20 and Romans 8:28-30

past 5 years, or did I already tell you that?) Seven years ago when I had another MRI at the same hospital my brain arteries were fine. So a lot of damage has occurred in 7 years. The doctor was quite surprised. We're not sure what happened, but now I'm on blood thinning and cholesterol drugs for the rest of my life.

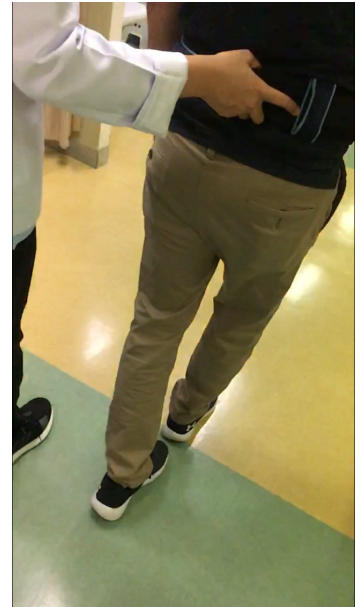
...yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

Just 3 weeks before the stroke I had asked the Lord to give me a revival in my heart no matter what it took. Sickness is often the catalyst for a soft heart. God has been working in our hearts, teaching us to humbly trust in Him. Please pray that our final 7 or so years in Cambodia would produce the fruit of humble reliance on God.

Pray especially for guidance for Kim as she transitions from full-time school teacher to full-time....what? How should she most wisely use her life for God's glory in these waning years? Thank you for your prayers

—JD and Kim

P.S. Because of political tensions in Phnom Penh, the government asked us to postpone our November Pastors School. Lord willing, we'll resume the program this May.



The therapist in Bangkok steadies me as I try unsuccessfully to walk a straight line. My balance is now almost normal.