

LIFENEWS

A WEEKEND OF *Firsts*

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This past Memorial Day weekend, I experienced a number of firsts:

- First time to experience major blood loss
- First time to ride in an ambulance
- First time for my 9-year-old granddaughter to watch her Grandpa be taken away in an ambulance
- First time in an Emergency Room (as a patient)
- First time to wear an adult diaper (I will spare you the details)
- First time to receive blood transfusions, platelets, plasma, etc.
- First time to have an NG tube put through my nose (ouch!), through my throat (irritating), and into my stomach (I called it a “nose hose”)
- First time as a patient in the ICU
- First time (the ICU staff told me) that they had seen a patient released from the ICU to go directly home without time spent in a step-down, regular room.

I recognize that some of you have not always had the best of experiences at our local hospital, but that was not the case for me. God graciously provided prompt and excellent care each step of the way, along with great peace for me and my family.

On the weekend of remembering the sacrifice of so many over the years, I am especially thankful for our medical personnel who rushed to my aid in my time of need:

I am thankful for Kevin, the EMT who allowed my granddaughter to hug me before my chauffeured ride to the

hospital and brought me back to reality when I passed out from loss of blood during the short ride.

I am thankful for the amazing Emergency Room doctors and nurses, especially Adam and Shawn, who provided my primary care in that unit.

I am thankful for Dr. Chu and nurses Janette and Paloma, who were so gracious and caring during my ICU spa stay.

Above all, I am thankful to my Lord Jesus for His care and the peace that He provided throughout the excitement, as well as the opportunities I had to share my faith. I am thankful for my sons who jumped in to help care for Peggy in my absence as she was just two days into recovering from knee replacement surgery, and the prayers of those who knew of the situation. Amazingly, the bleeding stopped just around the time that Pastor Nigel shared the prayer need with the elders. What a coincidence!

I was so sorry to miss the multi-church potluck on Sunday night, one of my favorite times of fellowship with all five of the churches that meet on our campus. Apparently, God wanted me to spend extended time with Him (which I did) and have me experience some connections with a number of His special gifts from above as they ministered to me. It was a humbling Memorial weekend experience that helped me be even more grateful for those who gave their lives for our great country and freedom, but especially for Jesus who gave His blood and life for my freedom from the penalty of sin, His Holy Spirit who provides freedom from the power of sin, His healing from the pain of sin and ultimately, in glory, His freedom from the very presence of sin!

Still recovering and celebrating my weekend of firsts!

Pastor Ron