

# Rescued!

December 30, 2022

For the past two years, especially since our “Covid Vaccinations,” Martha and I have been battling health issues. Prior to March 2021, my own health had been excellent, and while Martha did have respiratory issues since childhood, the asthma problems were mostly related colds and ordinary infections that we tried to prevent by avoiding contact with sick people. I am not trying to blame our health issues on Covid Vaccinations—merely stating that March of 2021 began a serious decline in the health of both of us, including significant increase in respiratory infections, an extremely painful sciatica that led to serious pain medication and inactivity, and a yet to be discovered case of pneumonia.

At this point, let me avoid the details [these details are posted at the end of this story] of the past two years and begin this story just two days ago. Martha and I were in the hospital where we had been for a week, mainly for Martha’s unmanageable pain and lack of mobility that prevented her from being able to even use a walker to get to the restroom. I had my own problems of ITP (an autoimmune blood disease!) and prostate removal, but these issues were not being addressed in this hospital visit.

On the morning of December 27, we had just learned that the leadership of our floor of the hospital was denying our request to place Martha in REHAB (rehabilitation), and instead attempting to send her to SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility), which would allow her only 1 hour per day and 3 days per week of rehabilitation. REHAB allows 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. REHAB should get Martha home in 2 weeks, while SNF would not likely be enough rehabilitation to EVER escape the disability she had suffered! On top of this news, I received a telephone call from my blood doctor. At the time of my prostate removal on September 27 my red blood cell count had been a satisfactory 123,000 (it normally should be 165,000). In this phone call, I learned that my blood count had dropped to a dangerous low count of only 10,000, and we would have to wait until the new year to begin my infusion treatments to correct it. We were devastated, and we called out to prayer warriors for help!

Within an hour, my blood doctor called back to say that my infusion treatments had been scheduled to coincide with my doctor’s appointment beginning Dec 29. Within 3 hours, we received a call we were certainly not expecting from Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Altamonte Springs inviting us to get rehabilitation (that means REHAB!) at their hospital! The head of the floor of our hospital had sent our name to Encompass, KNOWING that Martha was not strong enough and would NOT qualify for REHAB! Nevertheless, Encompass had ACCEPTED us anyway!!! Praise The Lord!!

We had TWO very important, life-saving and life-changing prayers answered in 3 hours. It reminded me of the story of Mordecai and Queen Esther, when Hamann was trying to kill God’s people! God turned the tables on Hamann, and the Jewish people were miraculously saved from destruction! In this case, I may not have been Mordecai, but there is no doubt, Martha is MY queen!

Sure enough, Martha completed REHAB, and we were released on Friday morning, January 6, 2023! We are EXCITED to be HOME! Praise The Lord!! My infusions continue, and radiation begins next week! PTL!!

**P.S.** Everyone needs to know Jesus, who He was, who He is, and what He did for us! There is [logical and historical evidence](#) for the validity of the Bible and for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus! Have you read about the evidence for the [resurrection of Jesus](#)? Our mission is to preach the Gospel to EVERYONE!

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### **Details leading up to this story!**

[At the end of June this year, Martha began to have sciatic pain on her left side, from her hip, through her knee, and down to her lower leg. We have tried everything we had heard might help: hot and cold compresses, creams, and lidocaine and lidocaine patches. We even responded to an advertisement on late night TV of a small strap to fasten to the lower leg that miraculously stops the pain, (the patient supposedly is then able to walk, run, and play ball with the grandchildren--the product actually made her pain WORSE!) We consulted physicians who recommended Tylenol for pain and prescribed prednisone for inflammation. We also consulted a pain management doctor, who was supportive in allowing us pursue higher levels of pain medication and pain management techniques. Of course, Tylenol is hardly strong enough to relieve sciatica pain, and the prednisone has serious side effects, especially increasing the blood sugar to dangerous levels. The unbearable pain of this sciatica resulted in another serious problem, perhaps the most serious one of all: inactivity! Over the months from June to December, moving around became very difficult to Martha. She began to lose mobility, to the point that on December 19, she slipped out of my hands at 5 a.m. trying to get back to the bed, and slid to the floor, fortunately without injury. The family responded to my early call, and we helped her to the bed. Then the next day, with Christmas just around the corner, we decided to call for outside help. The emergency crew took her to a local hospital where we spent 8 days, bringing us up to December 27, 2022.

My health problems began in December of 2021, when I was diagnosed with a blood disease called ITP, in which the red blood cells in my body, supposed to be 165,000 or more in number, was down to only 5,000. Over the summer with antibody treatments, my count went up to 123,000, and I was considered in "remission" and safe to proceed to resolve my next health attack, prostate cancer! My prostate was removed on September 27 with clear margins. However, there remained a problem with my PSA number that required additional consideration. Also, since the summer, my blood count had dropped significantly! I was waiting to hear from my blood doctor for my own case, but Martha's was clearly more important!

During our week at the local hospital (December 20-27), the staff in charge on our floor of the hospital had evaluated Martha's condition and explained to us the difference between REHAB (Rehabilitation) and SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility). They were completely convinced that Martha, in her condition, would NOT qualify for REHAB, and that we should select a SNF location for our next step. This was all new to us, since we did not know the difference between REHAB and SNF. For those who, like we, were unaware, REHAB involves a much higher intensity of physical activity of 3 hours per day for 5 days per week. SNF is much slower, giving only 1 hour per day for 3 days per week. Now think about this. If a person only gets 3 hours per week, how will he/she ever regain normalcy? I'm afraid the answer to this question is, "Not very often!", yet this is what we were facing!]