

## *A Word From the Publisher*

I know I'm a little late, but what a wonderful Thanksgiving we had! We are so blessed beyond measure. For several years now, Thanksgiving is traditionally at our home. Thanksgiving always has such a special meaning to me however this year it was over and above.

My mom has suffered with trigeminal neuralgia for about 14 years. The condition was in the right side of her face. When the pain hit, it was like an electrical charge through her face. The condition made her very aware of the pain and constantly waiting on guard for it to hit. For years, she maintained it with a strong medication. She had three different surgeries to try to combat the pain and hopefully stop it. Each of these procedures was challenging, as mom wasn't getting any younger. The last procedure she had barely lasted one year and then she started her medication regimen again. The medication cushioned the pain but also made her unsteady as she had to constantly increase the dosage as the pain increased. It was unbearable to watch her wrench in pain.

Finally, a new surgeon (because hers retired) gave her yet another option for surgery. After six weeks of testing this and that, we finally came to the pre-op testing. After a full day of going from place to place, now mom at 86 years old, the doctor cancelled her surgery late that night due to low sodium. We were all devastated and so discouraged. I felt so bad, after all Mom had been through. Come to find out, one of the medicines she was using caused the low sodium. The trooper my mother is, quit taking the medicine and tried to increase the other one. She and Daddy decided to get another opinion. Through God's grace, my daughter and a good friend's help, we had appointments with a Baptist Neurosurgeon and Mayo Clinic on the same day! What are the chances?

Our consultation with Baptist Neurosurgeon and Dr. Eric Sauvageau



went extremely well. Dr. Sauvageau talked to my mom like she was his mother. By talking with her, he saw the woman she was and knew there was only one thing that could help her. Two weeks after our appointment, Mom was scheduled for surgery to do a microvascular decompression, a type of brain surgery. When Dr. Sauvageau came out and talked to us, he said he had never seen one that was so matted together. "I padded that nerve on three sides. I don't know how you have dealt with this pain for so long. That pain is never going to hurt you again. I can't promise something else won't hurt but that won't."

Thanksgiving Day was one week after the surgery. Mom made her famous dressing and amazing gravy. She wouldn't let me even help! Her recovery has been the best. Best of all... NO PAIN! She has her life back again. She's not afraid to talk, smile, laugh or go to church! She's Mama again and what a blessing that is! She and Daddy have their lives back and can begin to enjoy life again.

Yes, Thanksgiving Day this year had a totally different spin. Every time I looked at my Mama, I just teared up! God is so good and I'm so thankful! Thank you Jesus!

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*