

Dear Saints in the Lord,

As Aerosmith had a comeback, and wrote the song "Back in the Saddle Again" we all have a time of coming back to what we originally set out to do from a time of break ready to tackle new things. From a break for family reasons or for health reasons or a time of healing or a time of rest or a time of learning. For me I guess it was all of these in a way. Let's just say it was a way of the Lord of getting my attention.

For months, I had side pain and I associated it with our mattress. Then came lower back pain so I started going to a chiropractor and no real relief happened. However, she did say I had two disc one bigger than the other that were rubbing against each other and it was going to cost an arm and a leg for her to get me back to normal. I saw her for a while then after no changes I decided to get an appointment with my general practitioner just for a second opinion. I had to wait a while for the appointment and the pain just got worse. I was really hoping it wasn't the new mattress we got to replace the bad one because I really liked it. The pain seemed to be on my left side and lower back. I was preaching Sunday and Tuesday was my appointment with the doctor. Monday night the pain was so bad I could barely stand it I thought I was passing a kidney stone or something and I needed to get several of them surgically removed. I told Deborah I couldn't wait until tomorrow I had to go to the ER. I was in so much pain! I couldn't walk. They did a CT scan and said that my appendix had burst. They said, by looks, it seems my appendix burst 4 or 5 days before I came in and that I was lucky to be alive. They gave me the good stuff and removed the appendix. They said it was impossible to push down on my stomach at all cause all the stuff and pressure in there.



Hanging out at the Hospital

I was in the hospital for nearly 2 weeks. They stuck tubes down my nose to my throat to clean out my stomach and open pathways and that lead to chronic hiccups for about 3-4 days straight which was not fun, no sleep. Deb deserves the Nobel Spouse Peace Award she stayed up there with me sleeping by my side. She is Greatest wife a man could ever have. I praise the LORD for her being by my side through all we have been through! After they cleared everything out, they checked for an abscess and didn't find anything but found some cartilage areas. They put a filter in catch anything left over and they removed the filter a couple days ago.

I am still dealing with some pain but I am taking day by day. I am walking regularly drinking cranberry juice, green tea, water and taking Tylenol. When I got back in the office, I went to the juvenile center to see my favorite young missionary, Mike. He is the one I have been discipling for a while and we have been going through Systematic Theology for some time. He has been at it on his own while I have been away but he had questions. I was good to see him and hear

Note: Names of kid's are typically changed for privacy purposes.

from him. All the CLIPS boys sent me a card while I was in the hospital that was sweet! It was such an encouragement! I love those boys!

Please pray for Mike that his living situation will be ideal for when he graduates the CLIPS program! CLIPS has a new boy in the program that was in non-secure. His name is Adrian. He identifies as "they" and says he is transgender. One day after church he said he wanted to talk to me one-on-one and I shared the gospel with him. We talked a good long time about Jesus. He is now in CLIPS and I have the chance to build and deeper relationship with this young man! Please pray for the LORD to move on this young man's heart!

Please continue to pray for the ALC High School they are experiencing some serious attendance issues with students. They are looking to move to another school building location next year, but we will have a connection with them. Still, they are needing a lot of prayer for their students and families and teachers and other staff as well.

And if you will, please continue praying for Deborah and I as we maneuver through ministries at the church plant, Northland Church. I preach again in May pray for boldness and clarity and for the Spirit to move. The mission team from Mississippi is coming very soon, pray for wisdom and God's favor and blessing. I will be doing a lot of traveling this spring and summer please pray for protection and God's favor and blessing on our traveling for training for YFC. We love each and every one of you we are praying for y'all! Please partner with us in prayer! If God has laid it on your heart to join us in ministry in giving by all means give. By all means give either one time gift, weekly, monthly or yearly. We need your help we can't do what we do without you! You are so loved and appreciated and we are grateful for you!!

In His Grip,

Benjamin A Talley



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