

Greetings friends in the Love of our Lord.

Thank you for your prayers for our family and ministry. I'd like to share an update on our most recent prayer request for Taku's brother, Imkong, who is battling throat cancer. We were very hopeful as he completed the chemo regime and approached his final radiation treatment. But he experienced a sudden down-turn and was suddenly hospitalized while we were away for ministry last week. He then stabilized somewhat, but presently his condition continues to deteriorate. His white cell count plummeted last week to only 300, far below the normal range of 4,000-10,000. He has received several units of blood and the doctor is prescribing multiple units per day for the next several days. We were informed last night that Imkong's liver is not functioning and that the doctor will attempt this treatment approach for 5 days. The situation is serious and we would ask for your prayers that his liver would be restored to full function and that Imkong would regain strength. ***Please join with us in prayer for Imkong's healing and for God's grace for his two daughters (22 & 16 years old) as well as his wife and all family members.***

Let me provide a *glimpse of hospitalization* Dimapur-style.

- Usually at least 2 family members stay with the patient 24/7.
- There is no call bell connected to the nurses' station, so whenever there is some need (i.e. I.V. blocked...no alarm, just family monitoring, etc) someone has to remain with the patient while another runs to get a nurse.
- When the MD prescribes a medication a family member goes to the hospital pharmacy, purchases the medication and brings it to the nurse, who will then administer it to the patient.
- When blood is required, there is a scramble to contact people to get tested and donate blood. Several people are involved in making those contacts and arranging the schedule for donors.
 - In this case, whole blood is not needed, only the white cell, so that requires a process of separation, which can only be done at one hospital in town...that happens to be on the opposite side of town.
 - So the donor gives blood at that location, the process of separation takes several hours. Only then the blood can be transported to the patient at the other hospital (by a family member of course). With Dimapur traffic that can add another 1½ to 2 hours to the process. So the patient receives the blood ordered yesterday only last night. Today the donors could only start the process at about 9:30 am (when the personnel were available) to collect the units for today, which will only be administered tonight!
- Food for the patient and care givers is provided from home.

Hospitalization, while challenging in every context, is extremely hands-on and labor intensive here, requiring the involvement of the extended family and cooperation of the community. We are grateful for God's grace and support of relatives, villagers and the church. We also appreciate your participation in prayer as we seek God's healing and grace.

Thank you. We will keep you updated.

Blessings,
Katie

Rev. Katie Longkumer