

Excerpt from Linda McNabb - Mounds, OK



Joe Brown called us on Saturday, June 19th to tell us that Bill had been admitted to ICU at St. John's. That caused immediate concern. I knew he was sick because Bill had called around 10pm asking if I could go to Walgreens in Sapulpa for Imodium AD. When I took the medicine to Bill, it was hard to believe what I was seeing. He was a very pale and weak man. I even told him that he should not try to go to Alaska with the group. Bill said, "I'll be better" and we started praying for him that night.

Joe called Sunday evening and told us that Bill was not doing very well, which turned out to be quite an understatement. Dalton Beck called the following day saying that if I believed in prayer to have everyone in Mounds praying. I began calling people from each church in Mounds to get a prayer chain started. My son Chris and husband L.O. went on to the hospital but by that time Bill was unconscious. I remember saying, "I am afraid he is going to die and I want to remember him sitting at my dining room table eating Sunday dinner with us". Every day I was on the phone with Sandy, with Dalton and with Joe to find out how Bill was doing. In between those calls, I had over 50 calls in 3 days from concerned friends and family.

Sandy, L.O. and I went to see Bill during his second week in ICU. I believe Bill knew we were there because he blinked his eyes and even moved his hands and legs. We went to see him again once he was moved out of ICU into a regular room. We had a mini-celebration with Mike's family on his birthday. We wouldn't have missed that for anything.

Bill was released on Saturday evening, the 10th of the July. I called him to let him know we were having a church dinner the next day and I would bring him a "to go box" of food. Bill asked, "Why can't I come there and eat?" He was so weak I didn't think that was such a good idea. Bill insisted, so my son Steven picked him up. We were sitting at the table after lunch and Bill said, "Mike is having a singing at his church". I said, "That's nice". Bill said, "I would sure like to go". So I asked him if he wanted me to take him and at what time. Bill responded with, "Now!" Bill and I made it to Broken Arrow and entered the singing already in progress. Mike was on stage and the look on his face was one I have never seen before. It was priceless! The love of God was so present. It was an awesome time.

Bill means so much to our family. Over the many years of friendship he has been with us for holidays and birthdays and is really a part of our family. Once Bill took our sons Chris, Steven and Tim to a Kansas City Royals baseball game. On another occasion Bill, L.O., Chris and the late Bill Upchurch made a trip to

North Carolina. I have enjoyed working with Bill for many years at the Turkey Shoot, here in Mounds. Thanks Bill for being part of our lives for over 30 years now. We love you very much.

And thanks to Joe and Dalton for being our informants during those 3 critical weeks. Thanks Mike for asking me to share my perspective of this journey on your blog. We love you all!