

THE JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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It is with deep appreciation and gratefully “healed” heart that I write this particular prayer letter. This is more like a “**Praise Letter**,” praising God for praying people like you. One of the doctors told ma that I have arrived just in time. He said that, had I delayed a moment, I would have had a massive heart attack. Upon arrival at the Heart Center in Quezon City, Philippines, I was put through a regiment of testings, including an Echo-cardiogram and Angiogram. The resulting x-ray showed three blocked arteries (one was 100%, the next was 99% , and the third was 96%). When the nurse gave my wife the x-ray, she asked if I am ready for the triple by-pass surgery. I told her that I was expecting that when they admitted me on Pohnpei.

The whole operation took eight hours, and when I opened my eyes, I was in a room full of patients with hoses running of of their mouths and bodies. My thought was, “How long will I stay in this room before my operation,” then it dawned on me that I had a hose running out of my throat, and I started gagging. When I tried to pull out the hose, the nurse came and grabbed my arm and told me to breathe through my nose. Immediately, I realized that I was in the recovery room, and I also saw my wife waving at me behind the glass window. There were several other family members waving at their “wounded” family member in the room. The next day they wheeled me to the ICU, where my wife, as well as friends, could visit. There were always two attending nurses to sit me up and take care of me in my “invalid” state. I was in the ICU for a whole week before they moved me to my original room. My wife had to check in as a patient (with a plastic wrist ID) in order to reserve the room for \$40.00 per night, until I was ready to move back in.

My admitting doctor, as well as the surgeon, told me that my recovery was one of the fastest they had seen and I told them that a lot of people and Christian friends were praying. We were at the Heart Center for three and a half weeks. By the second week of medication, I was already approved to go out window shipping with my wife. Once again, I would like to say a big “**Thank You**” to all of you who prayed for my operation. One good thing about the ordeal was the strict diet that they put me on. Everything amounted to the content of a cereal bowl. Everything tastes the same (bland and tasteless), except the fruit dessert. That was the highlight of every meal.

Before returning to Pohnpei, the Dietician and the doctors told me that if I want to be fully recovered I had to stick to my diet, medicines, and daily exercise. I have lost twenty pounds, and am trying my best to keep my new weight. The greatest blessing is to know that the Lord has given me **a new lease on life, or a second chance**. I now can walk long distance without huffing and puffing, Halleluia, Praise the Lord!!!!

While in the Philippines, we missed three revival services on Pohnpei, but we rejoiced for being “physically revived,” and now each day seems more precious than before. I want to testify that the Lord knew that I needed the experience to realize, once again, **just how precious and fragile is our life. James 4:14-15** “For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that.”