

This is just a quick update to our personal friends, family and prayer partners.

As most of you are aware I had an accident on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Somehow, I managed to trip over the bed leg and as I fell I hit the heating radiator. To be honest I've never experienced such pain and Marilyn had to call an ambulance.

I was taken to Yeovil Hospital where they could not decide whether bones were broken, it was a dislocation, or what to do, so the following day they sent me home with instructions to come back after two weeks at which point they would be able to make a better decision.

Praise God the consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Yeovil Hospital who specialises in shoulders, looked at the X rays and the next day I was summoned to go and see him immediately. He was wonderful.

He informed me that There were multiple fractures in the right shoulder and that the only way that this could be rectified was through a complete shoulder replacement operation, which he said he would perform personally. Something called a reverse shoulder replacement so that instead of having the ball on the top of my humerus and the socket in my shoulder I now have the ball on the artificial bones of my shoulder and the socket in the artificial bones of my humerus.

The operation was performed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and I received excellent treatment from the entire orthopaedic team at Yeovil Hospital.

Yesterday I went back for a change of dressings some sutures to be removed and for them to reassess the situation. They are very pleased with the way the surgery has turned out and believed that things will be fine, but it'll be another four to six weeks before I am allowed to drive or to do any manual work involving my right arm. During this period I will be having regular physiotherapy.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for the intervention of this consultant and for the successful surgery. I thank him also for the fact that my pain is manageable at the moment and that it seems as if everything will be back to normal within the next month to six weeks.

Please pray for Marilyn because as you know her health is not good and normally I do a great number of things to make life easier for her but the tables have been turned and she is now having to help me instead which is putting a strain on her body but she has been very brave and pushed herself to and indeed beyond the limit. As a result she is in more pain than normal and exhausted.

We would also appreciate your prayers because, as you know, we are basically missionaries working from home, without any salary, running Home of Peace on a daily basis.

Prior to my retirement many years ago we sank virtually all of our funds into the Christian counselling ministry that we were running at the time and as a result we now depend entirely on the state pension, Marilyn's Independent living allowance and I get a small Carers allowance for helping Marilyn.

It is our policy not to ask people for personal funding but our situation at the moment is somewhat difficult because due to my surgery we are incurring a lot of ongoing additional expenses. I find myself embarrassed to say this but we do need some help .

By being careful we usually manage but we are now having problems covering our monthly expenses due to the expenses from my accident. For example neither of us are able to actually clean our house so we have had to bring in a carer once a week to do the cleaning. This has been arranged through the Red Cross and it is wonderful to have the assistance, but it costs us £60 a week. The house that we rent is blessed with a lovely large garden but again I am completely unable to mow the lawns, so we've had to hire somebody to do that which costs us a further £40. There have been repeated trips to hospital and there will be many more repeated trips to the physiotherapist and also to collect prescriptions etc. Family, friends and neighbours have been wonderful, but we cannot expect them to cover the cost of the petrol, parking and everything else.

So, my injury is costing us about £500 a month and will do so for at least another month. We have no way of supplementing our income, but we know that God has the situations under control and we would ask you to pray that He will somehow provide all that we need until such time as I am able to resume my normal responsibilities.

Your prayers mean a great deal to us, we find that it's easier to pray for people when we actually know what the situation is and that's why I felt it was necessary to share this with you so that you can pray with insight and understanding and together we can rejoice as we see God do what is needed.

God bless you,

Ray