

Further Ami Ortiz update June, 19, 2008

This week has flown by, but with Ami experiencing more and more pain in his left arm and hand, and now electric "shocks" in one of the toes that was partially amputated by the bomb and sometimes throughout his whole body. I have to say it has been a bit discouraging, as we know the whole world is praying, and you are all praying so diligently.... I've been wondering, where are you Lord?? Where are you in this, and why are you letting Ami suffer and seemingly get worse even. A brother just sent me something as I sat down to write this update and it is the answer. It is too long to include it all, but here are a few excerpts....

A long time ago, a precious older saint said something to me which has never left me. It has become like a permanent message pinned on the notice-board of my mind. This is what she said:

*'When God wants to do something great, He starts with something difficult;
When He wants to do something very wonderful, He starts with something impossible!'*

Over and over again in my own life, I can testify to the truth of these words. However, more recently I have found that all these occurrences were dress-rehearsals for a situation I am now facing. Just as David had his dress-rehearsals killing the lion and the bear in order to prepare his heart to face Goliath, so too the Father takes us through training sessions; smaller battles which build our faith and knowledge of His character so that we may not only stand but triumph in the day we face our Goliath.

Then she begins to recount the story of Lazarus, Mary and Martha -- how they had seen the Lord heal, and had a close relationship with Him, yet their eyes scanned the horizon as their brother became more and more ill, and He didn't seem to arrive..... Or care.

'Hope deferred makes the heart sick', the Word tells us and as the reality of the situation before their eyes became more and more hopeless, confusion was replaced by anger and somewhere in-between these two raging emotions, faith was desperately trying to keep its head above the stormy waters.

This is exactly where we have been this week (Ami and myself). However, what happened after Lazarus even died, was the greatest miracle of all, resurrection from the dead, and God being glorified. And so we simply need to keep on trusting, no matter how difficult, painful, and confusing..... We have no choice but to trust Him. I have to say that the medical staff are wonderful and compassionate people who have been trying to do their utmost to help Ami and relieve his symptoms.

We have had some major turn arounds and blessings this week as well. Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice has been in Israel with his brother, Scott. (Rabbi Scott). Jay met with David, Caleb Myers and our criminal lawyer Yossi Graiver, and by the grace of almighty God they are planning strategy. Jay met with Avi Dichter, the minister of Internal Security, and told him that this unsolved crime is causing Washington to take notice. He said there are many Senators and Congressmen who are outraged that this has taken place, and are closely watching for justice to be done.

Dichter said that our file is on his desk, and he is involving himself to see that it is solved. Our lawyer said that this case is not going to be easy to be solved, and might turn out to be quite complicated, but progress has to be made. We were very grateful for Jay Sekulow standing up for us and using his considerable influence and connections for the case. Rabbi Scott Sekulow and his wife Judy came to the hospital to meet Ami and he was a real blessing. He ministered powerfully to Ami as he had a near fatal car accident when he was 16, with many similar injuries, and he was able to testify of the healing power of the Lord, and that Ami will return to normal life.

Please pray for these developments, and for Ami's surgery on June 26th.

Ami has 5 siblings who are a blessing to him and who are dedicated to supporting him during this time. My oldest is a daughter, who is married and has a four month old Baby. She comes to the hospital several times a week, and brings home cooked food to Ami, even though she teaches, has a small baby, and her husband comes also even though he works very hard and is exhausted at the end of the day. The next four are boys - and I would ask for prayer for all as we are all coming to terms with this tragedy. There have been varied responses from all, and as far as the faith is concerned as well. If you could keep Chen, (29) her husband Nissim, baby Rani, Aaron (27), Ariel (24) Natan (21), and Elad (19) in your prayers as well, we would appreciate it greatly.

David has been taking on the burden of the investigation and the numerous meetings with lawyers, meetings with other believers and congregational leaders in the land, sharing information, providing evidence to various legal entities, etc. etc. He needs much prayer.

Please pray for strength for myself, Leah, as well as I haven't been feeling too well these days and I am exhausted. I suffer from MS, and the enemy is trying to aggravate the symptoms - whom I rebuke in the mighty name of Yeshua.

Thank you for everything -- heaven will tell the whole story, and we will be able to rejoice together one day!

In the Messiah,

Leah Ortiz