

# KEY Notes

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)*

Dear Friends,

Though many of you have been following our blog ([journeywithkaty.wordpress.com](http://journeywithkaty.wordpress.com)), this is the first newsletter we’ve written since last fall. Because not everyone knows all the story, allow me to bring you up-to-date on the past five months.

On December 14, Katy underwent surgery to remove a “suspicious nodule” from her left lung. We rejoiced when the surgeon reported that the biopsy was benign and Katy was in the recovery room, doing well. Thinking the crisis had passed, I told friends and family who were with us at the hospital to go home. Little did I realize that the real crisis had not yet begun! About three hours after surgery, Katy suffered a stroke. A blood clot lodged in her right brain, threatening her life, and leaving her left side paralyzed. Swelling in the brain necessitated a second surgery the next day. A craniotomy removed part of Katy’s skull so the brain could swell and no further damage would occur.

For the next nine days, Katy lay in neuro-ICU fighting for her life. As her vital signs began to stabilize, she was moved on Christmas Day to the stroke unit of the hospital, where she continued to slowly regain her strength. On New Year’s Day, Katy was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital, where she began the long, painful process of regaining her strength. Over the next month, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy defined her life as did ongoing battles with swallowing, nausea, and pain.

In early February, Katy was transferred yet again, this time to a skilled nursing facility where she continued her daily therapies. The paralysis and the missing bone from her skull



Family with Katy in neuro-ICU



Anna, caregiver extraordinaire



Enjoying milkshakes

made progress painfully slow. On February 29, a final surgery replaced the bone in Katy's skull, and we began to see some encouraging signs of improvement. The nausea went away, and her pain levels became more manageable. As Katy learned to swallow and began to regain some core strength and basic motor skills, we started to anticipate coming home.

Finally, on March 7, after 84 days in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, Katy was discharged and moved back home! Therapists and nurses come to the house three to six times a week. Katy needs constant care and has a long road to travel before she reaches our goal of full recovery, but we thank God for the progress made thus far. We can definitely see signs of improvement in her ability to use her left leg. She can stand and "walk" (shuffle), with assistance. However, her left arm (aka, Wilson) remains mostly limp. Katy's memory, speech, and personality are intact—praise the Lord! She struggles to read and write, and sometimes her thoughts are muddled, but Katy is fully present, and we thank God for preserving her life. None of the healthcare professionals are willing to predict what her ultimate recovery will look like, but our hope is strong. We continue to trust God for full restoration as well as for the grace required to get us there!

Our oldest daughter, Anna, came home at Christmas from Germany, where she is a middle school teacher at Black Forest Academy. She landed home just as the crisis hit. Taking a leave of absence from her school, she has remained with us and is Katy's primary companion and caregiver. I don't know how we could have managed these past months without her!

As for me, I began to work again at FAS the first of February and, by March, was basically full-time. This is possible only because Anna is with us, caring for Katy's most pressing and immediate needs. Obviously, I have to be very selective in ministry assignments that involve travel. I've cancelled two international trips (January and July) and anticipate that travel overseas or being absent for extended periods of time is still perhaps six to twelve months away. Our situation has allowed me to give myself to projects that have been on the back burner at FAS for a long time. I've been able to focus on some pressing



Finally home again!



Easter 2016



After 3 months apart, Katy and Papa

administrative matters and strategic planning as well as keep up with the routines of managing an office and a ministry like FAS. Let me tell you of some of the projects make me especially joyful:

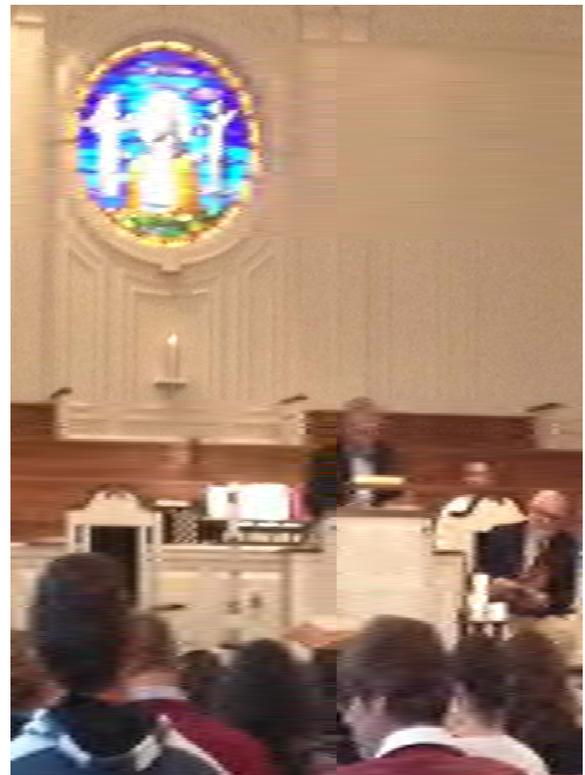
- I've finally completed the five-year curriculum for PAACS (Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons). This has been a huge assignment (five volumes in English and French) on which I've been working for several years. I'm the compiler, *not* the author, but putting it all together has been a monumental task. Pray that this discipleship material will be a useful tool in the spiritual maturity of the African doctors using it in nine different residency programs across the continent of Africa.
- Family Court Judge Tim Philpot and I co-sponsored a seminar on marriage in February here at our FAS Ministry Center. Attended by lawyers, judges, and counselors, this conference sought to describe the state of marriage in America today, teach what the Bible says, and suggest practical ways to get involved in the fight going on in our culture. Tim and I are planning to take this conference "on the road" in the months to come.
- Just last week, I signed a contract with Warner Press to write a book on Jeremiah. My work is to be finished by this November and the book should be available by the summer of 2017.
- Thanks to a wonderful team here at FAS, I'm finalizing edits on a new edition of my devotional book, *Face-to-Face*. To be published by Francis Asbury Press, we anticipate that it will be available by late fall 2016.
- Compared to last year, my speaking schedule is light, but I've had some wonderful preaching/teaching opportunities during the past few months: FAS Renewal Conference, the marriage seminar, finishing a weekly FAS Bible study on the life of David, a spiritual life weekend at a church in Illinois, preaching in chapel at Asbury Seminary, etc.



PAACS curriculum



Baby shower for Elisabeth



Stan preaching at Asbury Theological Seminary

We are profoundly thankful for the many expressions of love that we have received during this long journey. The cards, flowers, gifts, prayers, and visits have brought the aroma of Christ into our lives over and over again. How can we ever say thank you?

We're in a good place! The challenges are real and sometimes discouragement knocks at our door. But Katy recently spoke for both of us when she said to me, "You know, I've never once asked God *why* this happened. He allowed it for purposes beyond our ability to fully understand, but if God allowed his own Son to be crucified, why should we ever assume that we would be immune from suffering and pain?"

The apostle James begins his epistle (1:2-4) by telling his readers to count it all joy when they encounter trials of various kinds because the testing of their faith produces steadfastness. Then he explains how it works: when we simply allow the trials of life to have their desired effect, we will be "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." May it be so!

In the Strong Name,



Stan Key

*When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and they gold to refine.*

(verse 5, "How Firm a Foundation" by John Rippon)



Stan's sisters came to visit



Special visits from special friends



Learning to walk again

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