

Tuesday, August 19, 2008
Chapel Hill, NC

Dear Cane Creek Family,

As you know from Chris' note last night, today we are waiting at UNC with Dewey while he is having his heart valve replaced - the (hopefully) last in the series of surgeries to correct a congenital heart defect. Neither we, nor Dewey, is alone: Harvey is kindly waiting with us, but we are acutely conscious of all of your prayers, your love, your support, and especially your witness of the Love of God our Father for Dewey. Having nothing to do but wait, I decided to remind you that we are - all of us - watching a miracle of God in progress.

12 years ago (more or less) our church family met Dewey when he and two brothers were placed with Carol (now Whitehurst) and John Riddle as pre-adoptive foster children. Sadly, this did not work out, but in God's plan, Dewey continued to be in our prayers over the years largely through Bobby Kirk. Bobby has been a constant friend to Dewey all these years, a New Testament friend who has "stuck closer than a brother". It was Bobby who arranged for us to meet Dewey last year when he was no longer eligible for foster care but still needed parents - or grandparents, as we have become to him. It was a risky decision to bring an angry and insubordinate teen-ager into our family and into our church, but the result has been a miracle. Since last August, Dewey has finished high-school, taken his SAT's, gotten a job, and is preparing for college. More importantly, although he is still, like all of us, a work-in-progress, he has learned respect, self-control, discipline, responsibility, and consideration. We are humbly grateful, because we could not have done this alone. It took a family - all of you, to be specific. It has been Kelly, and Brenda, and Ray, and Ricky who have been mentors, counselors, friends, and prayer warriors for Dewey through our Youth program. It took Cindy to spend time talking and encouraging Dewey when he had a panic attack while with the ASP team. It took Mat and Ronnie and Linwood to believe in Dewey and encourage him to join the ASP team. It took our teens - our sons and daughters and grandchildren - who have learned enough about love in this church family to make Dewey one of them. It took Caswell, and the Holy Spirit Dewey encountered there. It has taken the faithful prayer and financial support of all of us who believe in the miracle working power of Jesus Christ.

Today, it will also take a talented surgeon, caring nurses and staff, and a community of medical folk who probably do not know that they are participating in this miracle, but are doing it nevertheless. We are waiting to hear, but have every hope that Dewey will continue to live in the center of the family that has become his home for the last year. We are not ignorant of the risks, but we also have the direct and powerful concern of God for Dewey. We know God loves him, because we, the body of Christ, love him, and that is reality. Nothing that can happen will change that.

*Is this not the fast that I have chosen:
To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens,
To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the morning,
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,
And your righteousness shall go before you;
The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

Isaiah 58

This day is that scripture fulfilled in our midst.

Allan