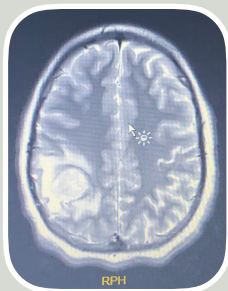


MAY 2019

HOLLIDAY ADVENTURES



MARY-FAITH'S MIRACLE

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

On Friday, May 24th, Mary-Faith went into Advent Hospital in Orlando for extensive testing on seizures she had been having since May 2018. Previous tests and doctors visits hadn't given any indication to the cause. Her tests on Friday began with an MRI of the brain, and then she would be observed by her neurologist during a 24 hour long EEG.

On Saturday morning, the doctor confirmed that seizure activity had been detected, and then he looked at the MRI with Jennifer. He had yet to see it, and cursed in anger when it revealed that our precious 17 year old had a brain tumor with inflammation

around it that had been the likely culprit of the seizures. The neurologist immediately called the neurosurgeon over, and within a few minutes it was determined that Mary-Faith would undergo neurosurgery on Monday, May 27th, Memorial Day, to remove the tumor. A biopsy of the tumor would reveal its nature, and a CT Scan of Mary-Faith's chest, lungs, and stomach and an MRI of her back would reveal if any other tumors were present.

The 27th was a long day of waiting, but our neurosurgeon, Dr. Baumgardner, did an amazing job. After 8 hours under anesthesia and 3 hours of surgery, he was able to confirm that the tumor was...



CELEBRATING SEVENTEEN!!!

Just one week before going into the hospital for her tests, Mary-Faith celebrated her birthday with an overnight road trip to Clearwater Beach with Emma and Jennifer.

Mary-Faith's Miracle (continued)

...encapsulated and he had been able to remove it cleanly. What a huge answer to prayer. The neurosurgeon also said that the tumor had been perfectly positioned so he was able to remove it without impinging upon areas of the brain critical to her cognitive or motor skill functions.

All of the doctors and nurses who were caring for Mary-Faith were amazed at how well she recovered after her surgery. After initial fear over the diagnosis, she experienced an amazing peace and calmness explained only by God's presence and the strength and reassurance of her mother. Mary-Faith's one prayer request was that she would be out of the hospital and home on June 1st, which represented the start of Summer in her mind.

God continued to answer the prayers of family and friends from around the world as we learned that Mary-Faith's CT scan and MRI were clean. No other tumors!

On Thursday, May 30th, we were told that Mary-Faith could go home to continue her recovery. Before we left the hospital though, the Pediatric Oncologist met with us to confirm that the tumor was malignant, a rare form of cancer called Ependymoma.

Mary-Faith has had her spinal fluid tested to determine if any

cancer cells are present. The most common treatment for this kind of cancer, even if the tumor has been removed completely as Mary-Faith's has, is radiation. We will wait to see the results of the spinal fluid test before making a final determination on what's next in terms of treatment.

Advent Hospital is a Christian Hospital, and we felt the love and presence of Christ through the caring staff. Just before going into surgery, Mary-Faith's nurse asked if we could pray with Mary-Faith. As we held her hands and gathered around Mary-Faith to pray, tears streamed down her cheeks.

We have felt loved. We have felt supported. We have experienced God's grace and peace and hope in a very difficult time for our family.

Mary-Faith's hospital stay came the day after a big family celebration with both Emma and Analise graduating from Seminole High School. In fact, it was a month of celebrations as Marisa graduated May 6th from Palm Beach Atlantic University, Mary-Faith celebrated her 17th birthday, and Jennifer was celebrated as an amazing mother to six beautiful daughters. Life isn't always easy, or fun, or fair... but we choose joy.



Serving Christ together, Doug and Jennifer



The Artwork Display near the entrance to the Pediatric Wing of Advent Hospital Orlando South.

Chief of the Medical Staff

By Nathan Green

"Surely I am with you always"..

Matthew 28:20

OUR GRADS



Marisa Graduates from PBA

Marisa graduated with a major in Marketing and a minor in Cross Cultural Studies. She is currently interviewing for positions in Marketing and Event Management.



Emma Graduates from SHS

Emma graduated Summa Cum Laud with an Intl. Baccalaureate diploma and will attend the University of Florida in the Fall.



Analise Graduates from SHS

Analise graduated with Honors and will attend Seminole State College in the Fall.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR FAMILY AND MINISTRY!