

We are the GRATEFUL!

On February 6, 2010 at 1:15 p.m., my husband Jim fell off an ATV. It rolled over him, braking 7 ribs on his left side and shattering his right ankle. He and four other ATV drivers were eight miles away from the home we were staying at. Kenton stayed with Jim while the other ATV riders went looking for help. Jim lay in the cold ground, hugging a log for pain relief and waiting for a rescue team. With Divine help, Pete and Jeremy managed to get to him (twice!) on an ATV with blankets and medicine. Three times I attempted to reach him: first, with Brian and Kevin on a four-wheel-suburban, then with the Sheriff SUV and finally with Kevin on an ATV. However, the deep, icy and wet snow kept me from reaching Jim. On a side note, this was the first time in my life digging snow. It is hard! Eventually, a Search & Rescue team came with a snowplow, a CAT vehicle and helicopter.

Almost five hours after the accident, Jim was airlifted to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. **The following is a list of things I am grateful for.** I am overwhelmed by the many ways in which God showed up through this ordeal and how people responded with generous love. Some of these items are very big (words may fail to express them). Other items may appear small, but came just at the perfect time. There are a few items that are indeed small but wonderful too. I am sure I missed many other great items for my mind was not working all too well. The list is not in chronological order, but as I thought about them. **Please join me in worship and praise as you read this list and reflect about how GOOD GOD IS – ALL THE TIME.**

If you have access to Tim Timmon's "The Grateful" song, play it as you read the list. It beautifully captures the joy of my heart.

1. That Jim's accident did not kill, paralyze him or caused brain injury
2. Kenton staying with Jim and stripping his jacket to keep Jim warm
3. Brian's gentleness when he told me the news of the accident
4. The elder's wives who immediately gathered around me
5. Kathy Neff's immediate take charge
6. Four-wheel suburban borrowed from Neff's friend
7. Genesee store chef strongly encouraging us to call Search & Rescue
8. Stan's NF jacket
9. Kevin's compassion, regularly checking on my "status"
10. Brian's brave and skillful driving through the snow up the mountain
11. Brian & Kevin's assuring me that we were safe even though the conditions were causing the suburban to slide on the icy road
12. The snow/cold weather that minimized Jim's internal bleeding
13. My Sport Chalet snow boots that I almost left home thinking I would not need them. Ha!
14. Pete Alzando rushing up with blankets and to assess Jim's condition
15. The Sherriff's grace and compassion, even though I threatened him. At his insistence that I would be in the way if I got to where Jim was, I said, "*Now look,*

- it is going to take more than your gun to stop this Puertorican from getting to her husband.” Okay, that was a dumb thing to say to a cop.*
16. Sherriff letting me drive up the mountain with Kevin on an ATV, against his better judgment. I needed something to do.
 17. The pleasure of emptying my bladder in the outdoors; never mind the helicopter hovering above
 18. Radios
 19. Fast action Search and Rescue team
 20. Snow plows and snow vehicles
 21. Kevin Pike returning with ATV to take me to Jim
 22. Stick and trees to dig out the stuck ATV from the snow
 23. Strength to push and pull the ATV with Kevin
 24. My hip not hurting through this entire ordeal...now that is amazing!
 25. Calm nerves...most of the time
 26. Wisdom to let Pete and Jeremy proceed up the hill instead of asking to be taken up with Pete
 27. Wisdom to let snow plow to pass us even though Kevin and I needed help to get unstuck
 28. Trust in the Lord and resolve to turn around despite the apparent defeat
 29. Not stopping where the ambulance was waiting for Jim
 30. That the Quincy/Plumas County Police were equipped and fast to respond
 31. That we have a Mariners’ elder who is a doctor – Pete!
 32. Medications in Pete’s possession to help Jim with pain
 33. Morphine
 34. Helicopter paramedic, Dana, who kindly and patiently explained to me why I could not ride with him to pick up Jim or take him to the hospital
 35. Laurie Beshore’s bear hug and the ladies who soon joined her to warm me up and stop my shaking
 36. Linda Prock’s willingness to ride with me to Reno – her calmness was contagious
 37. Brian’s jacket when I was up on the mountain
 38. Douglas – for driving us to Reno and sharing his personal story and hearing mine
 39. Linda’s many family questions that kept me distracted and calm
 40. The sun’s apparent delay in setting so that he helicopter could land within the last 10 minutes of day light to pick up Jim
 41. A landing place for the helicopter within a mile of Jim’s location
 42. Successful landing of the helicopter
 43. Enough fuel to make it to Reno . The helicopter was low on fuel because they circled a few times looking for Jim.
 44. That we safely arrived in Reno
 45. Renown Regional Medical Center – a premier trauma center with outstanding surgeons
 46. That the group returned to the home even though it was dark and Pete drove an ATV for the first time in the snow!
 47. Laughter and humor even in the midst of tragedy
 48. Dr. Baine, Lead trauma surgeon
 49. Great hospital nurses and staff

50. ICU quick action to care for Jim's lungs and intubation
51. Christina and Jenifer's quick decision to fly up with Carol – their help and company was INVALUABLE!
52. Clarity in decision making re ankle surgery
53. That Jim allowed me to make decisions for him.
54. Dr. Kramer's advice
55. Dr. Fyda's foresight to schedule the ankle surgery even though I was still vetting the pros & cons of operating that day or wait until the ankle was not swollen
56. Successful ankle reconstruction surgery without removable screw
57. Ice chips
58. A hotel close by with hospital stay discount
59. Kathy's "goodie bag" with tissues, lotion, deodorant, wipes and lip gloss. I used EVERYTHING in it. What a blessing this was to me personally.
60. Kathy's Blue Navy scarf, my safety blanket
61. The elder's group visit, prayer and encouragement before they headed back to LAX. I loved how loud they were. I felt surrounded by angels.
62. Linda's help with note taking and coordinating. Her staying with me until almost midnight.
63. The dear friends who packed our clothes
64. Douglas driving us to Reno, did I say this already? It's worth repeating.
65. The encouraging letters from the elder's group
66. Dr. Bain's recommendation for surgery of the ribs
67. Prayer chains – hundreds were praying WOW!
68. Dr. Althausen, orthopedic surgeon – "top rib carpenter"
69. Our **NOT** getting to Jim
70. Lead trauma surgeon, top orthopedic "carpenter," most experienced anesthesiologist and operating room all ready within 45 minutes of decision to operate ribs. Jim could wait no longer. He had not eaten or drank anything for 48 hours. God's miracle!
71. Urination bottle
72. Dean and Lisa – local Reno Christian couple referred by Greg Robins – daily visited, did my laundry and helped us with so much!
73. Clean clothes
74. Jennifer taking over communication emails
75. Pain meds
76. Neff Motor home option for going home. Their willingness to rearrange their schedule to help us – PRICELESS!
77. Harold' generous offer of a Citation 5 private plane to get Jim home safely and quickly – Fantastic!
78. Moments of rest
79. Tears
80. Coordination between doctors for Jim's good care
81. Good hospital food -unheard of!
82. Jim Decker's call re Pulmonologist
83. Scissors

84. Dr. Ramiseti returning my call and giving advice even though Jim is not his patient
85. Dinner date with Jim at hospital
86. A hospital bed big enough for me to squeeze in with Jim for a quick embrace
87. My vitamins shipped by Beth and Melissa
88. Barbara and Lindsey's help to get scooter shipped to Reno
89. A hospital room all to ourselves for all but the last day. Privacy is golden.
90. Support for Melissa who was home alone (Craig, Ashley, Beth, Kayleigh, Luisa, Brian)
91. Fred's prayer meeting at the Chapel on Friday, February 11
92. Paul Neff's help in wisdom and discernment re options for transportation to home
93. Bill Hamm's Facebook chatter with me – so encouraging!
94. Nicole, Jim's niece is respiratory therapist. She willingly flew to Reno to come home with Jim and monitor his condition
95. Nicole bumping into respiratory tech guy as we walked the hallway – he helped her understand the oxygen condenser we used to get him home safely
96. The reading of the Word, each day
97. Lisa helping us get to the airport and return the rental car
98. Ted Ballou's visit and prayer while Jim was in second surgery. Very encouraging!
99. Don and Laurie Schoendorfer's visit – a much need break for me
100. Car washes – even rental car washes can be therapeutic
101. Suppositories – at the right time
102. Wheelchair arriving quickly. We were told 45-minute wait. Jim was ready to run out of the hospital.
103. Paul and Kathy's willingness to drive out of their way to return Jim's photo ID and insurance card. Couldn't go home without it.
104. Financial ability to pay for the copays and expensive rental car
105. The pilot's patience despite our late arrival to the airport
106. Dean taking pictures of our departure
107. Snacks in the plane – we missed lunch in the rush to go home
108. Jim doing well at altitude
109. Adjustable hospital bed (Thanks Sean and Christina for getting the house ready for Jim's arrival)
110. Dear friends who accepted our request not to visit even though they really wanted to.
111. Jim's continued daily recovery
112. Comfortable shorts for Jim (thanks Fred!)
- 113-125 Wonderful dinner meals from friends, for two weeks! Thank you Julie Gladney for arranging the meals. Yum!

The list continues to grow. So does the worship. We are the grateful!