



His mercies are new every morning!

*New every morning.
Great is His faithfulness!*

Glory to God in the highest. His name is always to be praised.

Introduction

13 Nov. 2016 was supposed to be another normal Sunday morning to me: to have breakfast, go to church, enjoy a fellowship lunch with brothers and sisters, getting groceries for dinner, then back to home.

That morning, at about 9 a.m., I was on my way home after a morning breakfast downstairs with my wife. As my wife went for her pre-appointed hair treatment, I was intending to prepare myself for the briefing in church, scheduled at 10 a.m., on the new JCCH. Thereafter, I would attend the church service and then ...

However, the plan for a normal Sunday was not to be. As I was having my bath, I felt a sharp pain in my chest. Whilst dressing up, the pain did not go away. Instead, my chest got tighter. At about 9.30 a.m., I set off for church as planned and thought to myself that at the end of the activities I would have all the time to consult the doctor for my chest pain. As I stepped out of the lift, I distinctively heard a voice telling me to go to Westpoint Hospital, which was just a block away from my home. A right-turn from my block would lead me to a bus stop where there is a bus service to take me to church. But, without hesitation, I just followed the voice and turned left towards the hospital. The saying that 'A man plans but God disposes' is truly right.

At the hospital's reception counter, the staff asked me for the reason of my visit. After hearing about my chest symptoms, she signalled a nurse to bring

me to the sickroom immediately. I was hooked up to the ECG machine and given some medications, including an aspirin. With the results printed out, the doctor was called in. After reviewing the report, the doctor told me that he was calling for an ambulance for possible heart attack.

Within minutes, the ambulance officer arrived and was briefed by the doctor about my condition. Without time to waste, I was lying on a stretcher on my way to hospital. I was put on a drip and hooked up to a machine in the ambulance. The officer confirmed from the machine readings that I was positively having a heart attack. So, I was sent to NUH instead of the original plan for Ng Teng Fong Hospital.

I reached the hospital at about 10 a.m. Within minutes, I was pushed into the "Procedure Room" and the hospital would contact my wife. I was in the room until about 12.00 noon. During this time, I was awake and aware as the interventionist carried out some emergency procedures on local anaesthesia. Later, I was wheeled to the ICU Cardio Ward where I stayed for 4 days.

HIS Glory, HIS Providence, His Guidance, His Protection

As I reflected on the whole episode, I want to give all glory and thanks to our Lord God Almighty for His wonderful and loving hands working perfectly in every process and timing.

- ***Westpoint Hospital to ICU:***
Investigations, briefings, takeovers, and transfers were very smooth without undue delays - Westpoint Hospital → ambulance → NUH Emergency ward → finally to Procedure Room.
- **Procedure Room:**
No hiccups occurred. No pains felt. Ballooning and stent procedures went smoothly.
- ***ICU ward:***
Thank God for the friendly and efficient team who attended to me. The senior doctor informed me that I had more than 90% blockage in the main artery in front of my heart.

Praise God for open doors to share with one of the nurses. She came from China in 2006, received Christ in 2007 through one of the members in the welcome party, who became her mentor. She is attending a church in Pasir Panjang. I told her that receiving Christ was the best gift in her life, to continue to grow in Christ and never to give it up for anything else, because it is for Eternity. I passed to her an "Identity in

Christ” foldable card for her to carry it on her and memorise the verses printed on it which can strengthen her in times of need. Told her that it is important to always remember who we are in Christ and not what people think or say. She was very thankful for the card.

- ***Normal ward:***

An ultrasound investigation showed that I had a faulty/leaky valve on the left side of my heart. A further test clarified the extent of my condition. A procedure could be done to rectify it. After advising me of the possible consequences (with minimal risk of death), the doctor asked me if I wanted to proceed with the procedure. With my questions answered about the possible situation if I left it alone, since the condition had been with me for the last 64 years, I gave consent for the hospital to go ahead but requested for it to be after the Chinese New Year.

The Professor came on the next day (4th day). I was examined by him and re-examined by 2 junior doctors accompanying him. I heard the words “murmuring sound” and “distinct 3rd sound between heart beats” from the conversation among them. They were to further discuss my medical condition in the Professor’s office.

The next day (5th day), the Professor came again with the 2 doctors and informed them to replace my medicines and to remove me from one of their trial studies, named IMMACULATE, which involved the replaced medication; and to cancel the proposed procedure. Alleluia! Meanwhile my gout was acting up and I could not walk properly. However, PTL, the attending physiotherapist said that he would write a report to release me because my unsteady walking was not due to effects of medications or procedures done on me, as he told me that he saw me walking when I was first transferred to the ward. Amen.

Prayers

I seek your continuous prayers for complete healing and protection as my heart undergoes recovery from the damages from the heart attack. Also, for safety and mercy journey as I go ‘to and fro’ to NUH for exercises, follow-up and medical check-up over the next several months.

Praising the Lord and thanking all of you who visited me during my hospitalisation or at home. Finally, also thanks to those who had prayed for my recovery and well-being. May the Lord Jesus bless you.

Giving thanks to God in all circumstances. Amen!

Richard Lee