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Dear friends,

As many of you already know, our house in Ukarumpa caught on fire on March 25th. The fire started around 9am and was the result of strong power surges which affected electrical appliances in the whole region. David was trapped in his room and Papa received burns on 30-40% of his skin (mainly on the limbs and back, his face and front were almost completely unharmed) trying to rescue David, and he had to be medivacued on the same day to the Brisbane Burn Unit. Mama was able to fly with him the whole way. Praise the Lord that David was able to get out of his room before the flames came in through the walls and ceiling, and that he escaped with only a bad burn on the bottom of one foot. He was able to stay in Ukarumpa and after a few days on pain medication he is now able to move around on crutches and is doing well. Mama and Matthias escaped unharmed. Papa was moved into ICU in Brisbane on Palm Sunday because his burns were festering and his state was becoming critical. After 6hrs of surgery on Sunday to remove the burned skin in the deeper wounds in order to fight the infection, he was in ICU for nine days. On Tuesday and Wednesday, he received skin grafts on first his hands, arms, legs and feet, and then on his back. For the whole week he was kept artificially asleep and on strong pain medication. On Easter Sunday, Papa was finally deemed stable and strong enough for the sedatives which he'd been in for seven days to be slowly reduced in order to allow him to wake up. On Tuesday the 6th of April he was conscious enough that they could take out his breathing tubes, which relieved a great deal of discomfort for him and meant he was able to talk again. On Wednesday April 7th he was moved from ICU back to the Burn Ward. Since then he's been improving steadily, though the process is slow and painful. The effects of the sedatives and strong pain medication take a lot of time to wear off, and he's always very tired. Please pray for continued good spirits and motivation, there is so much work ahead of him on this long road to recovery. He is very often running a fever and the doctors aren't sure what's causing it, and he lost his spleen in an accident years ago so that makes the risk of infection even higher. At the moment he



can't use his hands for anything but the most basic movements, but it appears that all the nerves will grow back properly and he should regain the use of all his limbs and fingers. The hospital staff is enjoying his humour and gratefulness towards them, and they are all amazed at how quickly he is progressing. This is very encouraging, and we thank you all for your prayers. May they become as apparent to the hospital staff as they are to us.

Michael and I were able to fly from Zurich to be with Mama on the 31st and we arrived safely in Brisbane on the 2nd of April. Michael will leave again on the 22nd, and I will probably leave on the 19th in order to get back to Uni. Please pray for Matthias, who has very important AP exams coming up in May, to be able to focus on the preparations for those, and for myself to be able to keep up with my studies for Uni. Matthias and David will be coming down to Brisbane for the weekend on the 16th, so we will all be together then for a few days. We are all looking forward to this very much. David will actually stay for a week, and travel back with the Fumeys who are at present looking after Matthias and David in Ukarumpa, PNG. And all of us are still alive, praise the Lord.

Please pray that Papa will heal quickly and well, and especially for his daily baths, during which the wrappings on his limbs and back get changed and his skin gets cleaned, which is very painful and usually causes a fever for several hours afterwards. hopefully Mama and Papa will be able to go back to PNG in about a month's time in order to be able to say goodbye to their friends there together with David and Matthias and finish their preparations for leaving the country permanently. Praise God that Papa has received a job as pastor of a church in Brugg, including a house to live in. This makes the move back to Switzerland a lot easier and alleviates some of the worries and stresses that were expected. Michael and I are very much looking forward to having them in the same country as ourselves again, as are those of you who live in Switzerland, I'm sure. :)

Thank you for your prayers and support in this difficult time where Dad needs so much physical and we all need emotional healing.

Blessings,

Dorothee, and also for Thomas, Christiane, Michael, Matthias and David

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