

Saúl & Pilar Cruz

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Our friends,

Thank you for your prayers, your letters and phone calls. In moments like these your words of support and encouragement are more important than ever. Pilar is very grateful for you and listens with great joy and sometimes tears, to the lines of love you send her. She is not able to read yet, because it is too blurry, but she is improving and in the meantime Saul Jr. or myself gladly read to her.

We have followed your advice by giving her the best medical attention available and by phoning friends in the US to obtain advice about the possibility of getting even better care abroad. She has received the best medical attention available in Mexico and we think it will suffice, but perhaps for the following stages taking Pilar to a specialized rehabilitation center in the US will be more important.

For now, there are three major changes you should know about: 1) Pilar was originally treated by an ear, nose and throat specialist with Zovirax and Prednisone but then we moved to an infectious disease specialist. The new doctor adjusted the doses of the antiviral and changed to a newer and more powerful one. As she has suffered much pain and then vertigo she was given codeine, morphine derivatives and Vontrol and she was told not to continue with prednisone. 2) After ten days of antiviral medicine, Pilar's doctor suspended that as soon as the treatment was complete. Of course, the physical impact of the withdrawal of medication on Pilar was very hard and she felt amazingly tired for the first two days. At the same time, her right eye has a special patch which is changed every four hours when lubricating drops are put on the eye. 3) In the middle of all these events, we started to see some wonderful changes. Her right eyelid moved, and then blinked, and kept blinking more and more in synchrony with the left eyelid! As days have passed, her eyes are working in synchrony now, she can almost close both eyes at will with some effort, and although she still keeps using the patch to protect the eye, it has shown some very important improvements. The rest of her right side face is recovering sensitivity and has started to move as well. She can now pronounce some words she couldn't before and keeps improving. We are so very excited. Pilar keeps saying "It is the result of prayer," and she is right!

Pilar's affliction is entering into a new stage of neuralgic post-attack pain. That is a very difficult stage for which we ask you your prayers once more. Pray also that we can find the best doctors and treatment centers for the new stage. Pray that the facial paralysis keeps receding to give way to complete, willful movement again. Pray for us as well as we try to help her under very busy moments and trials for Armonia Ministries.

Yours in Christ,

Saul Cruz

* *These picture of Pilar and myself was taken on May '08 by Owen Matthews.*