

Subj: Yannis Update--Sept. 2008
Date: 9/30/2008 7:31:09 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: scott.mccracken@iteams.org
To: scott.mccracken@iteams.org

(Wow! Just found this...thought I sent it out earlier this month but somehow it got hidden in my "drafts" file. MOST RECENT UPDATE: Yannis is being moved home tomorrow--Wednesday!)

Sept. 10, 2008

Many thanks to those who have been praying for 19-year-old friend Yannis who was critically injured in a car accident in June. In spite of a initially being given a 50/50 chance of living and then having serious long-term brain damage if he lived, the doctors are becoming more optimistic, though still guarded, in giving a definitive prognosis.

Cody and Kyle went to visit him again this past Saturday (6 hours up and 6 hours back), and here are a few excerpts from Cody's report...

Kyle and I were given the opportunity to go up with William Romeos and his dad who drove up and came back on Saturday... we got there and he had about four other visitors already, so we went in the waiting room. After a while Kyle and William went in. When Kyle walked in, Yanni's mom asked Yanni who it was and he said, "Cody". She told him it was Kyle and "scolded" him for the mistake, and he smiled.

After a while it was my turn to go in. It was awkward again the first time, because there were other people there that I didn't know (I guess the two-at-a-time rule no longer applies). I could see a big difference. He had more control over his arms (he was scratching his head quite a bit) and he could be heard a lot more this time when he spoke. Unfortunately, he wasn't as talkative as he was two weeks before when we couldn't hear him, but he did say a few things. Like I said before, he said my name when Kyle walked in. Earlier that day he had told his dad, "I can't sit up". At one point we were asking him if his head hurt and he said something that we only caught the end of...something, something..."your's". Not much, but more than last time, and it was awesome to hear him when he talked. When there were a lot of us in the room he yawned, and his mom said (humorously), "Shame on you. Hasn't your mom taught you to cover your mouth when you yawn?" and he said, "No". It was pretty funny.

Later William and Kyle and I got to hang with him for quite a while by ourselves, and we talked a lot then. It was awesome. Other than the fact that he was quite a bit thinner than the last time we saw him, his condition has improved noticeably (not drastically mind you, but noticeably). He has better control over his arms and his head, and he's getting better at talking. The problem with his talking now is that he doesn't have much control over his breath, and it's hard for him to synchronize the two. He also seems to be getting his sense of humor back a little bit. He smiled when we smacked Kyle in the head and when we cracked jokes about Kyle's haircut. I'm not sure if I mentioned this the last time I wrote, but one thing you can be praying about is that they can bring him back to Athens soon. One of the first things his parents heard him say was "I want to leave". Overall, the visit was a big encouragement, and I hope reading about it encourages you keep him and his family in your prayers.

Scott & Vicki McCracken
 Panagiotou 3 Papagou
 15669 Athens/GREECE

(30) 210-65-28-191
 E-mail: scott.mccracken@iteams.org