



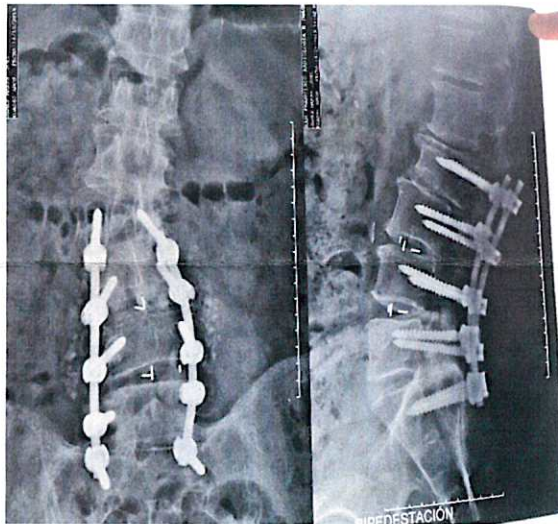
The Joel Marsh Familia Missionaries to Guatemala Central America

November & December 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from Hermosillo, Mexico, where I just underwent back surgery and I am presently recovering. Since I wrote our last prayer letter, time has gone by so quickly, I can hardly believe we're almost closing 2019.

On several occasions during the last two months, my back surgery was delayed, but in all honesty, I think I was "chickening out" trying to delay it. I remembered all the pain I suffered in recovery from my previous two back surgeries and, mentally, I was very fearful and nervous. But I knew that it couldn't be delayed any longer because of my pain and I was at a high risk of suffering paralysis and having to spend the rest of my life in a wheel chair. I do appreciate your prayers all this time for my health concerns.



My wife (Marilu) and I flew to Hermosillo, Mexico the last week in September for the preparations for my surgery. I did all my pre-operative lab analysis out of the hospital to save on the final costs. In February of this year, God put in my path a very godly Christian man and one of the top neurosurgeons in all Mexico (a Cuban by birth), Dr. Wilberto Bouza. At the beginning of this year, a good childhood friend and evangelist, Dr. Daniel Garlick (editor of the Spanish newspaper "The Sword" (La Espada) paid my airplane ticket to meet with him in order to have my back examined and evaluated. During the period of testing with x-rays and MRI's I had the wonderful

privilege of staying in his home. Dr. Bouza determined that I needed surgery, urgently! So, on October 3rd I underwent a major operation that took over six hours. Five of my lumbar (L2-L5 & S1) were joined together by titanium rods and screws, two discs were replaced and two other discs were screwed in place. Dr. Bouza's goal is that I will have 60% less pain than before. Please help me pray for full recovery! This Christian doctor has been such a blessing to let us stay here in his house until I'm well enough to travel home.

During my time in recovery from surgery, I began to lose weight rapidly. I had a colonoscopy performed last Saturday and it revealed that I have eight (8) ulcers in my small intestine. Therefore, I envy your prayers for my health issues. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts to those churches and friends that have given for my surgery. We wish you and yours the best Christmas ever and the happiest of New Years!

Yours for the cause of Christ
Joel & Marilu Marsh
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