



**April 10, 2021**

Since hospitalization a week ago, Jackie and I have been taking turns being with Emmalyn for 48 hours at a time. Emmalyn is left in the care of the nurses for 45-60 minutes as the parent with Emmalyn takes a taxi back to our AirBnB, and then the other parent takes the same taxi right back. I am typing this as I prepare to return for another shift this evening. There have been a lot of unknowns and questions, as well as ups and downs throughout this week, and the past few days have been no different. So where are we at today?

Well the best news in our eyes is that Emmalyn is doing MUCH better! She has much of her spunk and energy back, and is requiring much less interventions and attention. She was moved from the ICU to a room on the paediatric ward, and today she was downgraded to an even more “bare-bones” room in the same paediatric ward. While she is still on a minuscule amount of added oxygen, it seems to be more of a security blanket for the nurses than anything else, because her oxygen levels have stayed very constant in the mid to upper 90% range the last couple of days. They have not needed to give her a puffer today at all and have not suctioned out her airways since early this morning. She is eating completely normally again as well and her feeding tube has been removed.

HOWEVER, in doing the lung scope earlier this week that included taking samples from her lungs have produced something of concern to them. While nothing is conclusive at this point, two of the bacteria isolated in her lungs are commonly found in those who have Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

While those bacteria can often also be found in the lungs of those who do not have CF, they say it is quite uncommon for them to be found in the lungs of a child so young, unless they have CF. On Monday they plan to do a “sweat test” to try to get a better idea if that is what we are dealing with. Any genetic testing would have to be done when we get back to Manitoba, as the testing process takes a while, and apparently CF presents itself uniquely depending on the specific people group it is found in. (In other words, genetically the CF found in people from Montreal area would not be identical to CF found in people from Southern Manitoba) In the meantime, they are going to put her on some very strong antibiotics to help deal with those bacteria that they found, and this is going to require her to be hooked up to an IV through a PICC line every 8 hours. Because of this, even though her health is otherwise much improved, the doctor said she will NOT be able to be released from the hospital until we complete our quarantine here and are transferred to Manitoba. Pre-COVID we would have had the option of going back and forth to the hospital several times a day for treatment, but now they can’t allow people to come and go so much. So another week or so of separation and hanging out in hospital here.

**What can you pray for?**

1. Grace, grace, grace. For the next week of hospitalization, for dealing with any unfavourable diagnosis, and for continued medical appointments and testing when we get back to Manitoba. Oh, and also for the other 4 kids who are in quarantine without their baby sister and only with one parent at a time.
2. Wisdom for us to make the right decisions at the right time. Wisdom for all the medical staff involved in her case.
3. Miracles. That somehow we would be able to get Emmalyn home earlier. That the CF possibility would come back negative. That whatever is bothering her would be found and easily treatable OR that God would heal her little body completely.  
BUT if not,
4. That we would be at peace with God's will for our lives and for the life of Emmalyn, whatever that may be.

By His Grace and For His Glory,  
The Reimer Family

WebSite: <http://www.reimers2liberia.com>