

April 3, 2008

To all employees of Lemon Creek Correction Center, Brad and Deborah Wilson and everyone else who called:

As most of you know, our daughter Sierra was involved in a car accident on March 21st that required her to be medivaced to Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

As a result of this accident, our daughter suffered severe head trauma as well as compression fractures to 4 of her vertebra. During the first few days she was hospitalized, her condition went from guarded to critical as her brain injury was causing severe swelling. During this time, we came very close to losing her.

On April 2, 2008, I spoke to Sierra's nurse who said that she was originally scheduled to be moved to physical therapy for a week before being discharged but is making such good progress that they are considering sending her home this Friday.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you who took the time to call, pray and wish Sierra, Cathy and myself your best, and for the offers of help. It is comforting to know that so many of you care.

I would also like to take a moment to thank several individuals:

To Bill Bonn, I would like to thank you for the call you made to the union for their help with lodging and transportation. You were not asked to do this, you took it upon yourself. I never would have thought to ask you or the union for this help. I know from this event that when needed, you will be there for any of us.

To Ken Hoff, I would like to thank you for the extra support you gave to Cathy and me. Knowing that a friend is there to lean on in times such as these is truly an amazing gift. Your calls every day helped me personally get through a very emotional time. It was a comfort and a relief to know you were there for us.

To Mick Ewing, I would like to thank you for the spiritual guidance you provided us. When accidents such as this occur, faith in God to strengthen both the injured and family is perhaps the most important factor in having a positive outcome. When we called upon you, you stepped up to the plate helping to renew our faith in the only one who could walk us through the valley of the shadow of death. It is surely a blessing to have you close to us in our time of spiritual need.

To Brad and Deborah Wilson, I would like to thank you for the selfless sacrifice you made for us. Picking us up at the airport, taking us to the hospital then providing us with a hotel room and rental car, not to mention putting yourselves on standby throughout this ordeal, is truly a benefit only the best of friends could enjoy, and you did this without even knowing us. To you, we simply cannot find the words to express just how you have really helped or made us feel.

To Bruce Busby and Scott Wellard, thank you for allowing Cathy and me to take as much time away from work as was necessary and on a moment's notice. Knowing that you have the support from your supervisors not only makes the difficult times easier, but reassures one that they are valued not only as an employee, but united in a common goal.

When trouble hits home, it is comforting to know that there are so many who will help and who really care. This incident proves to us that we truly are a band of brothers.

May God bless each and every one of you as he has blessed Sierra, Cathy and me.

Cathy and Kaelin Mahnke