

the **OETMAN** family | serving in KOREA

On September 19, very early in the morning, I survived a heart attack. It seems the Lord is not discharging me from His service yet. I had been having some signs such as shoulder pain, dizziness, and nausea. However, since I had been told in previous medical exams that I was very heart healthy. I thought the issue was pain from a fall earlier this year and perhaps an inner ear issue.

A bit after midnight, the pain went from my shoulder to my chest. I told Brenda that I was going to get it checked out in the morning. About 30 minutes later, I told her we had better call an ambulance. I can't recall much of the ambulance ride or the emergency room as I was unconscious much of the time. They took me almost immediately for a heart catheterization procedure. An angioplasty revealed a spontaneous coronary artery dissection which resulted in a blockage.

The previous diagnosis of me being heart healthy were largely correct. My heart is in great shape. It pumps at a better than average volume, even after this incident. I also do not seem to have any significant plaque buildup in my arteries. However, some of those arteries supplying blood to the muscle in my heart are a little undersized. Typically, SCAD's affect women, particularly post-partum. Less than 10% of diagnosed cases involve men.

I spent four days in the cardiac intensive care unit plus another day in general ward. I was sternly warned not to exert myself in any way for at least a month. I also am not allowed to pick up anything over 30 lbs – ever. All forms of strenuous exercise are now strictly off limits for me as the reoccurrence rate for men who have had coronary artery dissections is pretty high.

I feel good except that the medicines make me feel even more weak and tired. Otherwise, I'm doing well. I certainly haven't lost any desire to do what God has called me to do. Two days after being discharged, I celebrated my 60th birthday. I am thankful God let me survive. I am ready to depart, if that be God's will, but I think there is more to be done until then.

Thank you for your prayers and support allowing us begin a new church plant, pass out 100's of Gospel tracts weekly, and train and disciple those who receive Christ. I love what I get to do, and we couldn't do it without you!

Yours for the harvest,

Rob & Brenda Oetman

