

UPDATE ON LOU WALTER

July 31, 2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter

Lou was transported by ambulance for his appointment with the orthopedic doctor. They decided to keep the external fixture in the leg for the time being and are setting him up with a hand doctor to check out his left hand. His left leg is doing extremely well, he is able to stand on it and put weight on it, so the doc was pleased. He will meet with the doctor again in a couple weeks and, hopefully, a decision will be made about additional surgery--he needs to have his right knee repaired, along with pins removed from his left hand and, of course, the eternal, external fixture decision! Due to the undiagnosed injury to his larnex, he has had some difficulty breathing and the nurses and docs at Vibra are watching him closely. It has been a frightening couple days for him, especially at night, but he rallies during the day. After his knee surgery, etc., he is facing six to nine months extensive physical therapy as well. He will remain in Vibra for the time being due to continued wound care needs.

7/22/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter

Lou's doctors and Vibra hospital are working with an orthopedic surgery group and have set up an appointment for next Thursday. They will look at his external fixture, The pins in his left hand, his skin grafts and their healing and decide when to schedule the surgery to remove the external fixture and the pins. Once that happens, he should be able to begin more intensive physical and occupational therapy. The nurses and PT personnel get him to stand once or twice a day and put weight on his on his broken left leg. It was difficult for him at first but as he continues to do it it gets easier and he gets encouraged. He has had a couple "spa days", where Joe shaves him and washes his hair and that makes him feel really good. He's looking forward to manicure, hopefully someday soon. He still has blood and icky stuff deep under his nails from the accident. And a shower— He is really looking forward to a shower.

7/15/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter

Every day Lou seems to be a bit more chipper. He has moments when he is a bit frightened and leery about the future, but soon bounces back to his optimistic self. He is quite limited to bed care right now due to the external fixture in his leg and the pins in his hand. The pins may come out today and the fixture next week. Then the hard work will begin as he starts therapy to become more mobile. He has a stand now for his phone so he is appreciating phone calls--just recently heard from Charlie Silvernale, who regaled him with happy stories. He doesn't seem to be in much pain now, mostly that darn finger, but, gosh, isn't that just terrific! Pain in a finger when you've had two dislocated ribs, broken all ribs, broken a leg and shredded an artery...just say'in! He's directing me from his bed (today IS tax day, y'know) and is pretty good at retaining information. We were laughing about his call from Charlie (Deacon Charlie) Silvernale and Lou wondered about getting the Sacrament of Anointing.....he called it "Extreme Unction" and, needless to say, I corrected him and told him the correct name and that he didn't need to worry about it because he received it at the hospital in Spokane.....he was surprised. Didn't remember it at all (I told him we got the priest in there the evening of the day he arrived)--said he was glad because if he had looked up and seen a Priest anointing him, he would have been scared. As if a roll-over truck accident at 1 am wasn't scary enough! Anyway, he had a good laugh and was very appreciative! God is good.



7/11/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter

Lou says Hello!