

From: Mark Nordman
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:16 PM
To: TimHetzner@LutheranChurchCharities.org
Subject: Cole Family information

Hi Tim,

... What a blessed visit I had with Marie this morning. I will be going to Madison tomorrow to see three year old Allison Cole and her family at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Allison remains in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with very minor signs of better brain activity, but this seems like it will take a long time, and she is in a somewhat induced coma. We pray that the Lord is using this time to bring the healing she needs. We are all especially concerned about her head injuries at this time.

This family of four was Jeff (37), Sheri (31), Grace (5), and Allison (3). Sheri was also about four months along with their 3rd child. During the funeral we referred to this four month old life as baby Cole. Jeff, Sheri, and Grace were killed from the impact of the accident, and as I mentioned Allison remains in the hospital.

Jeff's mom, Julie Cole, has taught at St. Paul Lutheran School in Rochelle for about 30 years. Julie is currently our 4th grade teacher. Julie and her husband Charles, or Chuck as he called, are basically living up at the Hospital in Madison since the accident.

Jeff's wife Sheri also taught at St. Paul's in Rochelle for five years, mostly 3rd grade. Sheri's last year was 2001. Once they started a family Sheri stopped teaching.

Sheri's parents are Merle and Carol Muerer. Sheri had two brothers and Jeff was an only child. So, as I mentioned, for five years we had a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law teaching side by side.

Some strange circumstances are that Julie Cole's first husband died in an accident when her son Jeff was 3 years old, the same age as Allison is now. Julie married Chuck Cole when Jeff was 7. The day of the accident, Feb. 25th was also Allison's 3rd birthday. The family was on HWY 251 on their way up to McDonald's in Rockford to celebrate Allison's birthday. That same afternoon they had planned to go to Chuck and Julie's to have a party.

Thank God that apparently (the accident is still under investigation) a nurse came upon the scene as well as the needed EMT's to save Allison's life. She was helicoptered to Rockford and then they flew her to Madison that same night.

Both sets of grandparents ask that people keep praying for Allison. They both are spending a lot of time at the Hospital to try to speak for Allison when decisions have to be made. The families have strong faith as they try to accept that Jeff, Sheri and Grace are heaven now and that God will heal Allison and, we pray heal their wounded and grieving hearts.

I look forward to sharing the love and the prayers that are behind the money that has been donated from God's people through LCC. This will be greatly appreciated and help them deal with expenses from this terrible trial. The only worst tragedy I can think of is if Jeff, Sheri and Grace did NOT have faith, but they did! I was honored to have Grace's Baptism shortly after she was born.

God bless you Tim as you continue to bring out all the good will of God's people through LCC.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark Nordman