

Updates on Tom Braak
From Tom's Family and Faith in Action International



4/18/18: TOM MADE IT TO MICHIGAN! It has been a whirlwind this week and things happened very quickly. Tom was airlifted to Grand Rapids via Air Trek, Inc. with ambulance rides on both ends. Our dad, Larry Braak, traveled with him. He is medically stable but still non-weight bearing and problems with confusion from his brain injury. He is at Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids. Tom and our family are so thankful for everyone who is praying, donating, visiting, sending cards and being there for our family. Tom will be getting cognitive rehabilitation and as soon as he is weight bearing OT and PT rehabilitation. He is still on a soft food diet as he is still working on swallowing properly. He is a miracle thanks to all the prayers. If you don't know what is going on, Tom had an incident in Haiti that resulted in him being run over by a truck. He was in critical condition (traumatic brain injury, brain bleed, 1.5 collapsed lungs, fractured pelvis, broken hip, 7 broken ribs). We had him airlifted to West Palm Beach Florida where he has been since March 2, 2018. He is breathing on his own, eating on his own, remembers friends and family. His short term memory is what he is struggling with. He is still non-weight bearing because of his hip. Prayers for cognitive recovery and physical recovery. Thank you for all the donations so we can get Tom the treatment he needs. Both airlifts have been covered through donations and some medical bills that have started coming in. We appreciate each and every one of you who have been by our side on this journey. Tom has a long road to recovery still, but I think being in Michigan will be good for him. We hope to get his wife Ficitla and son Ryan by his side also soon. We are blessed. Tom is a miracle.

4/22/18: This has been a good transitional week in Tom's rehabilitation. Now that he's at Mary Free Bed Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan he has been able to step up the frequency and intensity of therapy. He is seeing therapists several times daily, seven days a week. Physical therapists have helped him learn to transfer himself into a wheelchair. Occupational therapists have Tom "playing games" to work on fine motor skills and decision-making. Speech therapists are providing him cognitive therapy. He attempted to shoot a game of pool from his wheelchair earlier in the week, though he said doing so was more difficult than anticipated. Still unable to bear weight on his legs due to fractures, Tom looks forward to seeing an orthopedic physician on Monday to see if he can begin walking again. "This all feels like a dream," Tom said on Sunday morning, "I should have been out tending the nursery at 6 a.m. back in Haiti." With that said, Tom is starting to talk about when he can return to Haiti to continue his work there. Tom would like to thank everyone who has stopped by to see him at Mary Free Bed and he welcomes anyone to come see him after 4:30p on weekdays and anytime on weekends.

4/30/18: Tom walked for the first time since his accident on March 2nd. He continues to improve but has a long way to go. The work of Faith in Action International continues in Haiti as we have two dependable employees, Obenes and Samuel, who have been busy with our tree nurseries. The nurseries are full of trees and plants and will be distributed once the rains start. His address is: Room 4125, Mary Free Bed Hospital, 235 Wealthy St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. For updates, note, you do not have to have a Facebook account to read updates, but you do to leave a message. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/LettersToTomBraak/> or <https://www.gofundme.com/tombraak> or to donate www.faithinactionint.org



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