



Pilots for Christ is privileged to be flying Renee, Mitzi, and Mitchell McCowan to Chicago today. All 3 of these family members have Multiple Sclerosis. Renee called Pilots for Christ late one evening about a month ago and shared their story. My husband Matt and I have two children. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in May 2008 and then our son, Mitchell diagnosed just 5 months later in May 08. unable to move her right side, couldn't see very well and severe vertigo, subsequently diagnosed just 5 months later in June 2009 with Multiple Sclerosis. We all three have an aggressive form of MS even though it is Relapsing Remitting MS. None of the conventional MS treatments have been able to slow down or stop the aggressive nature of our MS. I have searched diligently for alternative treatments to help our only two children and myself. I found the research and trial being conducted at Northwestern Feinburg School of Medicine under Dr. Richard Burt to treat Multiple Sclerosis. After contacting their office, we were asked to come to Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital for this testing and evaluation. This is the only place in America that is treating autoimmune diseases with Stem Cell Transplant much like for cancer. We have been accepted formally to come for testing and evaluation to see if both our children Mitchell age 26 and Mitzi age 19, and myself the mother will be eligible candidates for

Stem Cell Transplant Therapy to rid our body of MS and reset our immune system.

Mitzi had just had treatment in May of this year at USA Children's and Women's Hospital Mobile AL. I was bringing her out of infusion in wheel chair and was very tired and had been crying. As I was coming out a lady and man stopped to ask me if she could do anything for us. Told her yes that I needed someone to watch Mitzi while I went to get car to pull around. I know they were complete strangers but the kindness in their face was so reassuring. Their names were Jackie And Ray Williams from just above Monroeville and were there to visit young girl. Mitzi had been telling them of the stem cell treatment at Northwestern in Chicago and she said she knows someone who may could help. That was Pilots for Christ! She said she quilts a blanket each year for auction for Pilots for Christ. She called me later that evening with your name. I looked up the PFC website and felt that you could help us in our need.

Whatever decisions I have come to face in the last few weeks is one of God closing doors to open another. It's been difficult to adjust to that. I'm a very timed out, sorted, probably OCD about my house, my work, my children, my church going, my entirety. But our diagnoses of all 3 of us within such a short period of time has been overwhelming. I feel my world has lost all ability to predict only one thing, and that is MS dictates our lives by each day, each flare, each turn of our world. I missed my family dinner Christmas 2013 day because I was very ill recovering from long high doses of steroids. My mother fully understood. That afternoon at 5:17, my mother put gas in her van and that was her last act besides praying they told me. At 6:10, she was pronounced dead.

As I have said, it doesn't have to be told sad or exaggerated. It is sad! MS is an ever unpredictable day to day reality for us.

On behalf of myself, my husband, and our family, I would like to say thank you to Pilots for Christ and all the people who have given to this ministry. I am so thankful. I don't know what we would have done.

Love to you all,

Renee

Pilots for Christ is asking for special prayers for this family. Please know that you are a very important part of PFC. Your prayers and your contributions to PFC help families like this every day.

May God bless!!