

The Tyrol - Austria The Harrisons

*"Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations...
teaching them to observe all things..."*

It was a sunny Friday afternoon in the Alps and since I had not been on my bicycle for over a week, I decided to ride up and over my local mountain. I know that sounds more dramatic than it is, but the climbing elevation is a steep 2000ft. It was the first time I would cycle this route this year and was looking forward to the challenge. In fact, I made it to the top in record time and felt good about my achievement. Where the ascent was a challenge, the descent was pure adrenaline. I rode swiftly but carefully but got caught behind a slow-moving car half way down. Two thirds of the way down the car slowed down a little on a flat bit of road so that I could pass. I got out of the saddle and sprinted at 33 mph to get by. And that is when it happened. That sickening knife stab sensation in the back of my calf as my muscle fibers tore.

Two things went through my mind as I continued my descent in agony: First, "Don't stop until you get to the bottom! and second, "Not again!" I know the injury and rehabilitation time as I had experienced the same tear two and a half years ago that put me out of commission for a month. I descended to the valley and called Kathleen for a ride home. She came and I was just about able to hop around to the passenger side of the car while a kind refugee who was waiting for a bus put my bike in the trunk of the car. I was in a bad shape and totally deflated!

Now, there is a story preceding my injury. The Gemeinde had been trying to organize an Evangelistic / Healing event for mid-November. But the planning had run into some issues with the venue and I had just that day postponed the campaign. During the week there had also been some heated debates about the "theology" of healing. None of this had left me with a feeling of peace. And so, it was, that after canceling the healing event, I found myself in desperate need of healing. The irony of it!

I prayed for healing with as much faith as I could muster but to be honest, in the back of my mind was past experience, when the same injury took over a month to heal. Experience can be a good thing, but it can also hamper our faith. People in the Church in Austria and USA prayed for healing. Kathleen, Ava and Timea, Ava's friend who was visiting, prayed. I did what I humanly knew to do: Rest, ice, compression, elevation, coupled with cups of English tea and cookies on the hour.

I had my crutches from the last injury which I used that evening to get up the stairs to bed. I awoke in the morning and visited the doctor who wrote me off work for two weeks with the expectation that I would be back for an extension. A confirmed Grade II tear would take an average of six weeks to heal completely. But this I already knew!

On my return home I rested again but found that the pain was far less severe than in the morning. By the evening I could put my weight on the leg and ditched the crutches. By the next day I was walking with a limp. By Monday the swelling was nearly gone. By Tuesday I

was thinking, "not long, God is really healing me". By Wednesday I was out and about and by Friday I went on an excursion with Kathleen and Ava. Saturday, we walked our three mile walk together without pain. So much for six weeks recovery! Praise God who is my healer! He had done it in under a week!

Some will say that the injury was not as bad as expected. I felt the pain and know how bad it was! Others will say that the body is remarkable in healing itself. Yes, it is, thank God, but not that good. The conclusions I draw: Does God always heal instantaneously? No. Was my healing a miracle? Yes! God is mighty and does extraordinary things. Obedient and faith-filled prayers are pleasing to God. Do not let past experience where God seemingly did not heal, deter you from praying and believing in present and future healing. Expect God to intervene (miraculously). Praise Him if He does and praise Him if He doesn't!

For His Fame & Glory!
Daniel