

Eric Allison: A Continuing Journey of Healing

Rev. Eric Allison suffered a debilitating stroke in 2008, from which he continues to struggle for improvement in both physical and mental function. The "Eric Angel Team" reports on his progress (November 2008 Messenger, p. 131: <http://tinyurl.com/h23ufcm>).



Rev. Eric Allison turned 66 in December, and he would love to hear from friends, acquaintances, and fellow Swedenborgians; he loves to receive phone calls. (Email the Angel Team [email4EricAllison@gmail.com] for his phone number.) It's been another active and productive year for Eric as he continues on his healing path, and several friends want to share stories of his strength and determination from their experiences.

From Ruth:

Eric continues to brighten Ballard Landmark (his home) with his fresh spirit, and other residents enjoy helping him out when they are able. He attends t'ai chi classes twice a week, personal fitness training twice a week, and swimming four times a week, all at Ballard Landmark. He walks to speech therapy and other weekly medical appointments in his neighborhood and gets there on time with no reminders needed. He is very pleased with his new skill of riding a public bus on his own to a local medical facility when the weather prevents walking. He manages his daily medications mostly on his own and keeps his room in admirable order. Eric keeps track of his library materials and gets them back on time. It is heartwarming to see him with the librarians at his neighborhood library, who help him reserve the DVDs

he wants or help him pick out DVDs from the shelves. They are greatly inspired by the patience and determination he displays as he tries one way after another to communicate his wishes.

He is loved by the staff at his local bank, who really enjoy helping him whenever he comes

continuing healing miracle.

From Diana:

Eric is so smart and remembers so well. He remembered where the statue of Quan Yin was in my yard and numerous other things, even though he hasn't been here in a long time. No matter where or when, Eric pulls out his homework sheets to practice different mental and physical exercises, always trying to improve himself—and he has! He is so alert and bright and loving. His soul shines through any limitations.

Appreciations

Eric is so very blessed to have wonderful helpers in his life, especially those from the Swedenborgian Church and the Angel Fund Team. Ruth continues her care and focus on helping Eric with his growing independence. She is a constant helper with healthcare coordination, transportation, and cognitive-enhancement activities. Diana continues her dedication and friendship to Eric with her regular visits and special outings. Michael is a regular helper especially with Eric's computer needs. Lisa oversees the management of Eric's living situation, his health care, and his financial needs.

We give special appreciation to the Retirement Committee of the Swedenborgian Church for its support through the years. And a heartfelt thanks to all of the Angel Donors for the continuing support.

Eric is blessed to have the love and support of so many. Please feel free to contact someone on the Angel Team at any time to offer your help or to share an inspiring story.

—Blessings,

Eric's Angel Team Leaders:

Diana, Ruth, and Lisa

email4EricAllison@gmail.com

in to withdraw money.

He is a valued and grateful member of his church, Amazing Grace. This year, with the help of his minister, he recited parts of his poem "The Universe Says Yes" to the congregation.

Eric is up for anything that can speed his recovery. He can say all of the words on the cards of the game Spot It and enjoys the games Jenga and Rush Hour, and he plays a mean game of Air Hockey. He is getting better control of his emotions and will sometimes suggest stopping to breathe or listen to a Tibetan bowl as a way of centering. He walks and walks on a regular basis, as he realizes it is one of the best things for his mind and body. According to his fitness trainer, another big Eric fan, he has gone from zero percent of normal to fifty percent of normal grip strength in his right hand, and always shows up ready to give one hundred percent. He is strong and healthy and has keen intuition regarding foods that are helpful for his recovery. His ability to read has not yet returned, and this is frustrating for him. He's a delightful, perceptive companion and is game for any adventure. Gratitude, generosity, humor, and faith in God are a big part of his life and recovery. Eric welcomes friends old and new to be a part of his