

ON COURSE ON GLIDE PATH

November 2005

“MUCHO GRACIOS” FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

I would like to thank all of you for your gracious support since Tim’s diving incident. An amazing demonstration of your love began that first Sunday morning when Marla Goss placed her cell phone on the platform at church so we could hear praise and worship going on at Southside. The blessings continued to flow from a fountain that never ran dry. This is truly a time of Thanksgiving for us and all of you are at the top of our list! We have been reminded once again to embrace everything God sends our way. When Tim was paralyzed, even pain would have been appreciated. Take time to thank God for His choices for your life.

Pilot's Log

July 23, 2005 started out like any normal work day. I loaded the boat with divers and equipment and started out to St. Thomas. Two hours later we arrived at Sail Rock 4 miles off the coast of St. Thomas. The water was wonderful and the sky was blue. I had 19 divers onboard that day. During the first dive I noticed a young man in trouble. He was making an uncontrolled rapid ascent. As he came past me I reached out to stop him. As I scrambled to release the air from his vest I realized that his vest was damaged and he did not have a release cord on his hip. By the time I got him in position and raised his deflator over his head we were on the surface. Within 6 minutes of returning to the boat, I was paralyzed from the neck down.

After 27 days in the hospital, 20 hypobaric chamber treatments, two minor surgeries, a multitude of other tests and physical therapy, I was released to outpatient status to continue my recovery. Sharon and I remained in Savannah doing physical therapy until the 30th of August. Then we returned home.

Once we returned to Puerto Rico, I was told that I could not work for six months because it was a work related accident. I was placed in a government rehab program and required to make frequent visits to a hand full of doctors. I continue to work hard everyday to improve. My condition continues to improve slowly. My doctors are saying that it could take as long as two years to recover fully. We are praying otherwise.

At present, I am still wobbly when I walk. I can not run or jog yet. My legs feel like they have rubber bands in them. Every time I get up they are very spastic until I get stretched out. Below my waist temperature sensation is very nominal. Hot and cold feel the same.

I thank God for Sharon and all that she has done for me the past few months. I could not have made it without her. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Prayer Requests

I have just received authorization from the FAA to take a medical flight test. I will try to complete it before Christmas.



Serving those who serve the Lord,
Tim and Sharon Tuinder