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Recoveries astonish medical experts

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KEN and Lyn Overton astounded medical professionals by overcoming life-threatening illnesses when the odds were heavily stacked against them.

The Devonport couple fought separate battles to stay alive, experiencing medical emergencies five years apart that left them on life support and hospitalised for months.

Their remarkable stories have been recorded in the book, *Where There's Life There's Hope*, by Paul O'Rourke, which will be shared with medical staff at the Mersey Community Hospital next week.

"We hope the book will bring hope, comfort and inspiration to others in difficult times," Mr Overton said.

"While there is life, you should never give up."

The Overtons were hesitant to record their story as they did not want to profit from the book.

Instead they made the funds available to volunteers on an African hospital ship who provide medical care at no cost.

"Ours is only another story, there are many other people who have experienced much worse," Mr Overton said.

Seven years ago Mrs Overton was given a 0.1% chance of surviving when she collapsed and was nearly pronounced dead.

"She was gone for 30 minutes, the paramedic said he could have written her a death certificate," Mr Overton said.

She had a broken leg and a 23cm blood clot from her leg punctured her heart and lodged itself in her lungs.

She then suffered a stroke when given blood-thinning medication.

Five years later, Mr Overton was diagnosed with a diseased pancreas and was in intensive care for 102 days, during which time he overcame multiple organ failure, super bugs and infections, internal bleeding and lost 30kg.

Until that time, Mr Overton joked his wife had only spent half a day sick in bed since he'd known her.

"Lyn's recovery took four months before she could come home," Mr Overton said.

"I was four months on life support, two of those months where I didn't know anything. The full period was eight months in hospital and for five months I couldn't talk."

Mr Overton said they had a very positive experience in the health system.

They say the experience strengthened their religious beliefs and they believe God helped them.

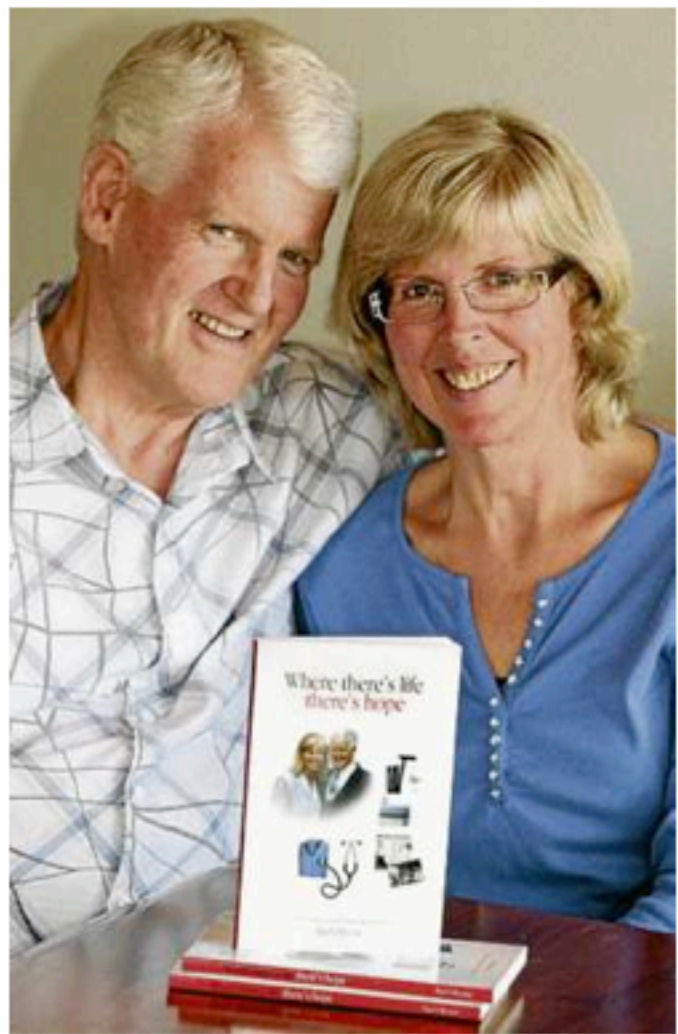
"We felt a feeling of God walking with us on the journey," Mr Overton said.

The Overtons have since returned to their normal lives, free of pain.


The book is available at Not Just Books, Burnie and Devonport; Devonport Bookshop; Christian Bookshop, Devonport; and Window on the World Book Lounge, Ulverstone.



INSPIRING STORY: Ken and Lyn Overton with the book written about their extraordinary recoveries. Picture: Jason Hollister.






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