

John Tefertiller Health Update

Some of you already know some, most or all of what I will write here, but I thought the time was appropriate to begin letting people know how things are going. I hope I don't sound impersonal, but by necessity this has to be directed to a substantial group of friends, family members and other associates.

The Situation

I recently had one of those dreaded colonoscopy examinations. The exam is nothing- the preparation is the worst part! However, while things were in generally good condition, a tumor was discovered which will have to be removed surgically. A sample was taken to be sent out for pathological tests, and biopsy results showed the tumor to be cancerous, so this has prompted the process I am about to begin.

The Plan

As of now, we are not sure exactly how things will go. First will come MRI and PET scans to get an accurate picture of the tumor and to try and to determine if there are nearby lymph nodes or other organs/tissue/bone that have become compromised. Treatment that follows will depend on what is found. If there doesn't seem to be a need for chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments, surgery would be scheduled quickly. If it is suggested that those treatments are required, there will be about a quarter of a year process before surgery can take place.

If surgery occurs sooner than later and post-surgery pathology does not suggest further treatment, that will be the end of the matter except for routine follow up. If pathology from the removed tissue suggests further treatments of chemotherapy and radiation, the process will be drawn out by a several months.

The Consequences

What I am apparently looking at is a minimum of about six months for surgery and recovery, up to around a year of treatment, surgery and recovery if needed. There is no way to tell at this time, but at each stage of discovery and treatment, I will let people know how things are going.

How Do I Feel?

Short answer: It may be that some emotions have not yet kicked in, but right now I am not feeling devastated. I have faith that even in the worst-case scenario, God will be with me. I would not be going anywhere that Jesus has not already gone on my behalf, and there is provision that he has made for me regardless of physical outcomes.

The longer answer will have to wait until I have gone farther down this road. Hindsight is always so much easier than foresight.

What Can You Do?

The obvious answer is that you can keep me in your prayers. Here are a few specific things:

1. Pray regarding the financial impact this is likely to have- limited resources.
2. Pray that I will keep my eyes on Jesus, and not on my condition.
3. Pray that as I go through this, that people will see the reality of my faith and trust in God through Jesus Christ.

Closing Remarks

This is how things are. One of the reasons I do not feel especially devastated is that I am convinced both from observation and from the Bible, that we have to deal with what is, rather than what we wish had been. It is a lesson that took many, many years to sink in with me, and now I get to use the benefits of it.

Just keep me in your prayers- and the main thing is attitude, not goods, position or even health. The God of all creation, who is the beginning and the end, knows the outcome of our lives- and He is much to be trusted.

With kindest regards,

John B. Tefertiller