

## John Tefertiller Health Update – 13 June 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

A few of you may be new to this email list which is intended to keep friends and family informed about the status of my recently diagnosed health condition, and what's happening in the course of treatments. If for any reason you do not wish to receive emails from me about this, let me know and I will remove your address from the list. As I said in the first update a few weeks ago, this may seem slightly impersonal, but it is necessary to inform as many people as possible at once. I am happy, however, to respond to individual questions or correspondence as needed.

### So Far

To review the situation, I was diagnosed in mid-May to have a cancerous tumor in my colon. It was hoped that subsequent tests and scans might prove chemo- and radiation therapy to be unnecessary before surgery can take place.

I underwent a PET scan a couple of weeks ago, and the surgeon was happy with the results. "As good as it gets for this kind of thing," was his remark. I was scheduled for an MRI scan on July 1st, but it was determined that I would not have to wait that long and so a scan took place last Thursday.

### Right Now

The results of the MRI scan were not so hopeful, in that it has been determined by the doctors that a lymph node in the region of the tumor is "very likely" involved, and so chemo and radiation treatments will commence shortly.

I have not yet seen the oncologists-- that will take place this week. Treatments will begin ASAP, and according to what I have been told, will last approximately six weeks, followed by another several weeks of recovery before surgery can take place.

### The Upshot

This means that it will be approximately a quarter (10+ weeks) before surgery can take place. This pushes surgery out to some time around October, followed by recuperation and, depending on biopsy results from the surgery, possibly more chemo and/or radiation therapy (hopefully not!).

I have been told to expect a great loss of energy (will anyone really notice??) and some very difficult days in the weeks and months ahead.

### My Current Take On Things

As people have spoken to me over the last few weeks to express sympathy or to tell me that they are praying for me, I have been able to say that God has been very gracious to me, and that I have a great deal of peace regarding how things are going. That is still true, in spite of the disappointment of facing chemo and radiation therapy. As I told the surgeon, the eternal matters are settled- it's the financial consequences and aftermath that are of greater immediate concern.

### How You Can Pray

Some of you already know how short the assistance available through my work can fall. I have no private insurance. My income is what it is- in good times it is generally adequate, but my current situation raises concerns. As much as praying for God's intervention in my health, pray also for His intervention in the financial side of things.

By all means, pray for God's healing power to be applied to my physical body, whether as a testimony to God by direct miraculous healing, or whether through treatments and surgery. It's all God's creation, and he is able to make things whole by whatever means.

Keep praying that my attitude and outlook will reflect the glory of God in whose hands are all of time and eternity. Fears and concerns are natural, but knowing that ultimate control is in God's hands reduces the effects of them. The whole matter is already concluded where God is concerned.

### Closing Remarks

I am not the first, nor will I be the last person to go through this kind of diagnosis and treatment. It may be that my particular situation is not even as serious as that of other people, some of whom I could name. I don't want to be "me" driven, but you know how it is when something this big enters your sphere: everything on your mind seems to be related to yourself and your situation. Yet there are others with even greater burdens to bear, and God will never give me more than he knows that I can bear. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." Job 13:15

I will keep you all updated as matters progress.

With thanks to God, and kind regards,

John T.