

John Tefertiller Health Update - November 27, 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

Complications-R-Us

My chemotherapy treatments did not begin as scheduled last Monday because of the development of a blood clot in the left shoulder/neck area. I am on two blood thinners, one of which is a daily self-administered injection, as well as Warfarin. The blood clot made its appearance known by way of a pain in the upper left arm and shoulder along with swelling in the left arm. By the time the doctor looked at it, the swelling was quite visible, as well as a significant observable difference in coloration between the left and right hands.

This can be a very serious situation with concerns of heart attack, stroke and other serious complications, should an undissolved clot get loose in the blood stream and make its way to the heart, brain or lungs.

State of Mind

Well, needless to say there are passing thoughts of “What now??” and “Why me?” I realize that I am not the first to go through difficulties such as I am experiencing, however it is of concern to me that discouragement not be allowed to set in, leading to a negative view of God's gracious provision. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's experience: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” (2 Cor. 4:7-10).

I am not sure how close I can truly come to this attitude, but that would be the goal.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray that this complication of blood clots will be cleared up ASAP so that we can proceed as planned with chemotherapy.
2. Pray for courage and emotional strength in the face of complications and delays.
3. Continue in prayer for God's provision, both of treatments and for the mounting financial needs.

Final Thoughts

I will not lie: It would be easier to sit in despair than to believe that there is a good purpose in what is happening. More than at just about any other time in my life I recognize the absolute necessity of absolute trust in God. The last few months have taken their toll on any natural optimism I might have had, leaving me with God alone as a resource for courage and hope. This is especially so when faced with thoughts of “What else??”

I cannot tell you how much I value the prayers of God's people. The knowledge that there are people in many places lifting up my name before God's throne, making requests for healing, for strength, for provision, is, like the commercial says, priceless. I could not have orchestrated such an outpouring of concern and compassion, but God himself has opened hearts in ways that I would not have believed possible. I thank God, but I also thank you, every one, for your thoughts and prayers. Please continue steadfastly.

With warmest regards,

John T.