

John Tefertiller Health Update – 23 October 2010

Greetings friends and family:

There really *is* a light at the end of the tunnel. I hope the tunnel doesn't unexpectedly extend itself this time! It has been over two months since my last update; a blessedly quiet time of near-normalcy. I am now a little more than a week from what everyone hopes will be the final surgical procedure in this long, drawn out process.

Plans, etc.

I still have significant neuropathy in the hands and feet. There is steady, but glacial progress in recovery of feeling; it takes a few minutes less to button a shirt, and sometimes I can tell what I'm trying to fish out of my shirt pocket. Typing is still more two fingers than by touch. Incentive to do much more than sit at the desk is still a problem because of the feet.

After this upcoming surgery I will still have to check in with the oncologist every few months for a while, but this "season" should be more-or-less at an end after a few weeks of recovery and review by the surgeon. Unless something comes up, surgery is scheduled for November 3rd. I won't have an exact time line for admittance and surgery until a day or so before it occurs, but these things are usually booked for early mornings.

During this final week I will be having some pre-op scans, consultations and, probably, some blood tests. This procedure is not expected to be nearly as traumatic as the previous ones, and recovery should also not be as difficult or drama-filled. My hospital stay may be as short as three or four days, and up to a week, depending on how quickly regular bodily functions restart. While I am looking forward to renewed functionality without a pouch attached to my side, there will be a time of re-training necessary, which I hope will not be too ... adventurous!

Prayer Items

1. Pray for God's hand to be actively involved in this phase. He is always present and involved, but ask him to shine a light for the doctors and nurses.
2. Everything has seemed to be "Plan B" for the last year and a half. Please pray for my attitude to be receptive to whatever our Heavenly Father allows.
3. Pray also for strength, energy and resolve. I have a lot of ground to make up physically, and "I ain't getting any younger here!"
4. It is time to re-qualify for Medi-Cal. Please pray for wisdom in how to answer questions. You might also pray about the possibility of getting on some kind of private insurance. My monthly share of cost with Medi-Cal has been quite high, and almost any insurance would conceivably be less expensive!

Conclusions

I once again must express a profound gratitude for the prayers of God's people during the last year and a half. There have been many moments when I didn't have the resources of heart, mind or body to come through these times, and only the strength of God at work by your prayers carried me through.

My life has taken some “interesting” turns the last couple of years, and I have to say that I am a bit weary of “interesting,” and I would like a little “normal.” Having said that, I am fully cognizant that God’s aim is that we should become “perfect,” or a better word is “complete,” in the moral and spiritual likeness of the Only Begotten. All of life is preparation for living in the eternal light of the Son of God, and the Father spares no effort in that regard. What we experience may seem unseasonably difficult at times, but is part of the process that transforms us from what we were into what we shall be. We don’t perceive it in ourselves yet, “ ... but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

Why do bad things, difficult things happen to us? It is so that we may be changed. Why does God expose us to people and situations that are uncomfortable and unpleasant? It is so that he may show that change to the world as a testimony to his transforming power made available through the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. God isn’t looking for supermen, rather he is seeking obedient and faithfully trusting children who will submit to his changes. The one who will not be changed cannot be saved.

Just as “normal” seems just around the corner in my health, things seem to be taking on “interesting” aspects in other areas. Pray for me, friends, to know the direction that God is leading. The next several months promise to be exceptionally “interesting,” and I greatly desire to be at peace in the center of God’s will.

With warmest regards,

John T.