

John Tefertiller Health Update – 29 September 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

It is now just a week before I will be admitted to Eden Hospital in Castro Valley for surgery to remove the cancerous tumor for which I have been under treatment since June.

I would like to thank everyone who has prayed on my behalf regarding the physical aspects of this illness and treatment, as well as the financial and emotional impacts it could have had up until now. As I have said in previous updates, I am certain that I have gotten off lightly so far because of the prayers of God's people.

I have never been hospitalized before– never spent a single night in the wards– so this is a completely new adventure for me. I have had the final pre-op consultation with the surgeon, and have (I think) a fairly good picture of what to expect. Here is the basic rundown and plan:

1. Pre-op lab tests, EKG, etc. on Monday, 5th October.
2. Early morning admittance to Eden Hospital on Tuesday the 6th.
7. Surgery at 7:45 on Wednesday 7th October, 2009.
3. Approximately one week hospital stay.
4. Home recovery of a week or more, depending on the need for pain relievers, etc. I have been told to expect a severe drop in energy levels for several weeks.
5. Consultation on follow-up chemotherapy on 18th October.
6. It is expected that I should be back to “normal” (including energy levels) sometime in December.

Status

The surgeon and both oncologists are very pleased with how things have gone. The tumor has been substantially reduced in size, making things that much simpler at the time of surgery. My health, except for the tumor, has remained good. Blood tests have remained clean, showing no systemic markers for the spread of the cancer beyond its local manifestation. The prognosis is very positive for a long and healthy life, God willing, on the other side of this season.

Beyond this, there are no guarantees, but that is a truth of our human existence. The only things that have a guarantee that we can unfailingly rely upon, are the eternal promises of our Creator. Since the Lord already knows the outcome, trusting in his provision is the only sensible thing to do.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for skill and divine guidance in the operating room.
2. Pray for a smooth (if not pain free!) recovery.
3. Pray that I will keep a good attitude through the hospitalization and recovery.
4. As always, pray that our God who supplies every need will provide the financial coverage resulting from the surgery and hospitalization.
5. Pray that there will be a positive affirmation of trust in the God who knows the end of all things among friends, family and associates, and that there will be saving faith found among them all.

Final thoughts

As this final week before surgery goes racing past and I enter the next phases of treatment, I hope to prepare in heart and mind as well as in home and circumstances. I want to express my humble thanks again to all who have prayed and will continue to pray for me. I have felt the confidence of God from early on because so many others are expressing faith and hope for me.

I am generally a “glass half empty” kind of guy. There is no end to frustrations and disappointments if I am looking merely at circumstances and conditions. The need, and my desire, is instead to see the One who gave me that half-glass, and who has promised to fill it to overflowing.

Keep me in your prayers.

With thanks to God for all his provision,

John T.