

John Tefertiller Health Update - 28 October 2009

Greetings, friends and family!

Home

I was “cut loose” Tuesday afternoon from my hospital stay. Thanks to Matt Tuter for providing transport and other assistance in getting me home.

I am entering into the home care and recovery phase on the way to the next round of chemotherapy which should begin in a week or two. The extra surgery and extended hospital stay put things off for longer than had originally been planned. In the short term there will be a handful of visits by a home care nurse, but for the most part I am on my own and am discovering the abilities and disabilities in my situation.

The greatest immediate need is to regain strength and energy before starting chemotherapy. The stronger I am going in, the less I may be affected by some of the side effects— although I have been warned that there will be yet another precipitous nosedive of energy levels in the couple of weeks after the chemotherapy starts—reason enough to get strengthened beforehand.

How I'm Feeling

There is a substantial lack of energy— thus my comments above. I believe that a few days of functioning on my own will begin to restore some of the energy and allow me a greater range of freedom to do for myself. In the meantime, friends are assisting me in various ways.

I am not in any great pain. Occasionally I do need to take a pain-killer but it's not a constant thing, for which I am grateful. I think the need even for that should diminish over the next few days. I am finishing up a double course of antibiotics that had begun in the hospital as an IV drip, and the doctor has prescribed a low-dose aspirin daily to help keep the blood thinned and flowing.

All in all, while the lack of energy does bother me, I know it will pass shortly and life will return to something resembling normal until the chemotherapy starts up again.

Prayer Requests

1. Keep bringing the financial resources needed before God's throne. I am applying for Medi-Cal to see what assistance can be made available to pay for the hospitalization and treatments that have already been given, as well as that which is to come.
2. It is a test of faith when the best-laid plans for treatment work out as differently as they have. Pray for God's blessing and direction of the doctors' decisions. Whereas I expected to be home almost three weeks ago, and well on the way to recovery, here I am, as I am. I desire to submit to whatever God allows. He knows the end from the beginning, and my emergency surgery was no surprise to him.
3. Pray for strength and energy to be restored to as high a level as possible so that I can function independently. I am learning the humility of requesting help, but the comfort zone of going about normal business as much as possible is something I am asking the Lord to provide. With his provision I desire to also be a testimony to the effectual prayers of God's people.

Final Thoughts

In the last day before leaving the hospital I was given a room mate. As it turns out, we have quite a bit of common acquaintance. He is the son-in-law of a recently deceased elder in a local church that I attended for a number of years. We had some good discussions of how God is working in us and through us, and I had opportunity to observe his family as they came to visit– bringing their Bibles, sharing scriptures with one another and praying for one another.

Oh– and while God has brought him through many treatments and circumstances, he will eventually succumb to his disease- yet his attitude is one of concern for others, for family, for church and for friends. Therefore, he has a significant influence on a substantial number of people. It gives me pause to wonder if I even come close to what I observed in this man, but it has been my prayer from the beginning that it might be the case.

Our quality of life is not found only in the relative comfort in which we live, but more in the character we display while prospering or suffering. I have not always been a good sufferer. I like to prosper and feel good. Faith is not just a good feeling about what God is doing in me or through me, but a confidence that what he has promised, he will deliver. Sometimes ultimate delivery must wait just around the corner until the call to come home is heard.

May we be found faithful and trusting when the trumpet sounds and the archangel shouts. This, ultimately would be the one prayer I want to absolutely be answered positively.

The Lord bless everyone who has been doing the heavy lifting of bringing my name before the throne of God. Please continue doing so.

With heartfelt thanks to God,

John T.