

Easter Sunday Sharing

Helen Ng

I was diagnosed with Bile Duct Cancer this past January. As I had mentioned in my previous e-mail, God had prepared me for this before the diagnostic result. He told me that it was His plan for me, and with acceptance, came peace in my heart. I just want to take this opportunity to witness God's love and some of the things that He has done for me in the past 4 months.

I had mentioned in my previous e-mail, I do have peace in my heart, I do hold on to God's promises. However, I am merely human; there will be times when I will break down. The only time that this happened, was in early January. I was staying in Riverside Hospital. Early in the morning, the doctor came and told me about their diagnosis, that it was confirmed as cancer, and that it has spread. After he left, I got up to do my devotions. I got a visitor: it was Anna. At that time, Max was still in the ICU. When I saw her, I just broke down and cried on her shoulder, I mean really cried out loud. Anna just held me tight, and prayed for me out loud until I calmed down. Anna, thanks for lending me your shoulder to cry on. You were sent there by God, because God knew that I needed the relief my emotions, anxieties, anger, fear. God's love is so deep, that He allows us to have moments of weakness. And there's not a need too minute for Him to care. He knows our needs before we do.

I would like to seek 2nd opinion in OSU Cancer Unit. God miraculously made arrangement for me to be able to meet with one of the best surgeon within a few days. However, because the cancer had spread, there was nothing that a surgeon could do for me. During the appointment, I asked him what my life expectancy is. He looked straight in my eyes, and said, "Do you really want to know? 6 months." I was devastated. My husband then asked him, is this due to heredity? Or is this due to our diet? He said, "No, nothing to do with those, its bad luck, pure bad luck." I was too devastated to say anything, but in my heart, I was screaming, "No, doctor, it's not bad luck. It's God's will, its God's plan for me. And His plan is better than my plan; His will is higher than my will." Brothers and sisters, as children of God, there is no such thing as bad luck. Whatever happens to us is permitted by God, and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28.

I asked God to show me every day that His love is with me. God has shown His love for me through you all. The tremendous support and love that I received not only from the Cantonese Congregation, but also through the Mandarin Congregation, the English Congregation, College Group and Youth Group. People who do not know me, signed up to deliver meals for my family. Sisters that I do not know e-mailed verses of encouragement and support to me every day. Youth Group is so sweet; they sent me a sweet package. There was one incidence that really touched my heart. One day my husband came home from work. He found a little black package in our mailbox. He opened it up and found that there was a very very generous amount of money. He looked all over, and found out and there was something written in the underside of the black paper. And this is what really touched me. It said, "Helen Ah-Yee, thank you for being part of my life." I respect your desire to stay anonymous, I don't know who you are, and I don't even know if you're here today or not. But I would like to say to you, "I thank God for letting me be part of your life." What really touched me This is God's love manifested through you.

The next obstacle that you all have been fervently praying for me is my insurance. I remembered while I was in my GI oncologist office, he told us about a clinical trial treatment. We asked about the possibility of insurance coverage. He asked me about my insurance company which is United Health Care. He said "Oh that's a very reasonable company. You should have no problem with them. However, the company that you work for is pretty tough, but we'll deal with them when we have to".

Well, sure enough a few days later, the insurance is denied. So what I did, and it's the only thing I can do, was to bring my petition to the Lord, spread it out in front of Him, and ask for help. Because He is the only One who can. Just like what Hezekiah did when he received the letter from Assyria in Isaiah 37:14-20.

A week later, we got a letter from United Health saying that we sent the appeal to the wrong place, it should be sent to the company that I work for, because the company is self insured. They only provide services and process the claim for them. I was talking with Angie, my clinical trial case manger. She told me the nurse had contacted United Health immediately, and they told her that each month on the last Wednesday, which happened to be the following week, they will have a meeting with the company that I work for and discuss this case,

so we will know by Thursday next week.

During the phone conversation, Angie sounded deflated. She asked me what my next step would be if it is denied. I told her the only options for me is to go through regular chemotherapy treatment. She said yes, that would be the next logical step.

However, she called me back on Tuesday, and said that United Health Care had called for an emergency meeting with the company that I work for to discuss my case. And they have approved. Which is amazing, which is amazing, which is amazing! She said that three times in a row. Yes, my God is an amazing God, He works miracles, and He listens to our every prayer. Isn't God amazing?

When the treatment started, I told my sons that even with the best doctor, he could do his best to diagnose, he could do his best to come up with a treatment plan, he could do his best to monitor the treatment, but that's all man can do for me. Now it is totally up to God, He is the only true Healer.

When my chemotherapy was about to start, my belly had built up a lot of fluid. There was no time for me to schedule another procedure to draw the fluid. I asked the doctor if the chemo would help in extracting the water. He said yes, but it would take about a month before they do that.

Well, my heavenly Father thought that this will not do because the fluid gave me the biggest discomfort. After the first treatment, I started going to the bathroom every ½ hour, 15 minutes. I lost 12 lbs in one week, and I lost another 8 lbs in 2 weeks. God's love is so tender, He cares for our every need.

At this time, I often wonder. Am I ready to meet God? What kind of gifts do I have to present to my Lord? Brothers and sisters, don't wait until then to reflect upon this. Do it now, do it every day. Make sure what you have done for the Lord really counts. As for me, I only hope that Christ will be exalted in my life, whether by life or by death. (Philippians 1:20b)

Brothers and sisters, I'm not the only one that is on this journey, I can easily think of 4 other families that are going through the same tough journey as I am. Please also remember them in your prayers.

Whether you have a terminal illness or a chronic illness, or whether you are going through a tough time in your life: emotional problems, family problems, financial problems, looking for a job. Do what Hezekiah did. Spread your petition in front of the Lord. Tell Him you don't know how to handle this anymore, ask Him for help. God will certainly listen to your prayers, as He had listened to mine.

I remembered a dear sister in our Cantonese Choir wrote me this song to give me encouragement. It says, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know, who holds the future. And life is worth a living, just because He lives.

Because He lives, we can all face tomorrow. May all honor and praise be to our glorious living Lord, Jesus Christ our Savior. Because He is worthy of all praise.