

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me, they rod and thy staff they comfort me” Psalm 23.

The past few weeks have been very difficult as we have dealt with Anne's cancer and a deep vein thrombus detected in my leg. However, we have leaned on the Lord and He has proven Himself faithful in giving us peace and guidance. Our oncologist decided to treat Anne's cancer as breast cancer so planned an appropriate course . After the first treatment she developed a fever and was taken into hospital for four days. She was then prescribed Neupogen as a barrier to further infections. In the fourth cycle (each three weeks) she was again admitted to Emergency for five days as the picc she had had inserted, had caused a blood clot to develop in her arm with swelling and discomfort. She was found to have a very low white cell count and low hemoglobin so was given two units of blood. She now has to daily self-inject a blood thinner to combat the blood clot. Poor girl – what a lot she has gone through with extreme weakness and loss of appetite. Meanwhile, I had severe pain in my left calf so, after a few days I visited my doctor to be diagnosed with a ruptured Baker's cyst. However, the pain got progressively worse so that I could not even get about the house to help Anne. After three more weeks I went to Emergency where an ultra-sound detected a blood clot from my groin to my calf! I am now on Coumadin (Warfarin) probably for the rest of my life.

How blessed we are to be able to look to the Lord at times like this; how blessed we are to have some wonderful friends who brought us meals, worked around the house and drove us back and forth to the hospital.

Before Anne starts the next course (weekly for 12 weeks) she was given a CT scan. This showed that the blood clot had broken up and entered her lungs (her injections will deal with that). **Now the good news!** It also showed that there is now no evidence of any cancer present! We believe that prayers have been answered in both our cases – one hesitates to know what might have happened if our blood clots had not been detected. (see here my latest note of My Soapbox – *Atonement Healing*). Now we look forward to the completion of her treatment and a better New Year.

One effect of Anne's cancer was the cancellation of our planned flights to Beijing and Australia in September. Mine was on Aeroplan miles so I knew I would be refunded all but administration costs (~\$90). Anne's, however, was uninsured with China Air so we could only hope for the best when she contacted their office. Imagine our surprise and delight when they quickly refunded us every cent! This past week I heard again from Aeroplan and they also are going to refund us the admin costs – not a normal practice unless there is a death involved. Surely, the Lord is Jehovah Jireh, our Provider!

My prayer times with my two friends have continued but not as regularly as I would like and my prayer walks have been almost non-existent during this valley time (I was unable to even walk around the house!) I'm looking forward to starting up again soon.

Other ministry has been little, though blessed. I spoke at three local churches in August; at a camp weekend with Celebrate Recovery (a Christian 12-step program for recovering addicts) in September; at a Prayer Canada conference in September.

Our home continues to be a blessing we can share with others. Peter and Bronwen came from Toronto, Mike and Elly from Brisbane – such a joy to host them and to hear their stories.

Finally, it was with mixed emotions I received news of the passing of a dear, dear friend from my early days in Wales. Yorrie Richards stammered so badly when we first met that it was impossible to understand him. His story of conversion and healing is remarkable (you can read of him in my book *Soar Like The Eagle* – Ch 10 – Y.R. - this web). Now he has 'been promoted' – I'm sure he has heard the words “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the rest of your Lord!”

Still rejoicing,

Gareth