

Karen's Update

GREAT news from the Phinney household! I have been looking forward to updating our CB North Central family concerning the report we recently received on Karen's health. Since her diagnosis of stage 3 ovarian cancer on September 3, 2017, it has been a very challenging journey. During this time, we have remained thankful to Him for His steadfast faithfulness to us and our entire family. We are indebted to each of you for carrying our burden through love, friendship and devoted prayer.



Karen's first round of treatment, which is commonly known as the Golden Standard, had no effect on the cancer. It was so disappointing because 70% of all women with ovarian cancer respond positively to the treatment. Karen did not. So, we began the second round of treatment, praying it would make a difference. The plan was for Karen to have abdominal surgery on January 11 to eliminate as much cancer as possible (they removed 90%), three months of treatment in February, March and April and then a CT scan on May 11 to determine if the treatment was successful.

We saw four possible options at the May 18 consultation: the cancer would be completely eradicated, there would be a positive sign of progress, the cancer would remain and finally, the cancer would continue to advance with no response to treatments. The week between the CT scan and the consultation was a very difficult wait. It seemed like an eternity, but we continued to trust in God's sovereignty.

As the oncologist walked into the room, you could cut the air with a knife. She smiled and said, "Karen, the CT scan looks just great. You are disease free!" What? Our hearts were filled with praise to God for the miracle He gave. We had to ask the oncologists three times to repeat the news. Only three treatments with the new round of chemo and Karen has no sign of disease. They will not call her cancer free because she has two lymph nodes that are inflamed and somewhat suspicious, but they are not concerned about them at this point.

Praise God! Karen will continue with three more cycles of chemo, which will be completed in late July. They will do another CT scan early August, to determine if the chemo is continuing to work. If so, Karen will go into a "surveillance" mode, where they will closely monitor her for months to come.

Ovarian cancer has a nasty habit of returning, but for now we are so thankful to God. We are also thankful to each of you, our dear friends, for your steadfast love, support and prayers. Rejoice and give thanks with us before God, but please do not stop praying. We are here today because of you, so you must continue to uphold us before God. We are excited about enjoying this new chapter in our lives. We love you all more than you will ever know. All praise and glory goes to God.

*With Love,
Pat & Karen Phinney*