



*"This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."* 1 John 5:2-5

A good friend of ours from Oregon just sent this E-Card that says, "Faith doesn't make sense. It makes miracles." (Tony Evans) This ministered to my soul and Dr. Evans is correct. When Karen and I look upon this difficult trial that God has entrusted us with, He wants faith. Of course, we want a miracle of healing. Who wouldn't? In our prayers over these 18 months, we have asked that we would be faithful to God and that our faith in Him would grow beyond our understanding. So, we continue.

The news I shared last month was that the February 1 PET scan showed a mixed-bag of results. We were happy to hear that some areas of the cancer had receded. Thank you Lord! There was also evidence that some other areas had not grown at all. Again, we praised the Lord! However, we also discovered from the same scan that the tumor in Karen's liver had progressed ever so slowly. On February 5, we met with our oncologist to determine the next steps and it was recommended that Karen stay on and complete the regimen of Gemzar. That is what we are doing. In summary, Karen had treatments on February 13, 20 and then a week off. She will begin the next round of Gemzar on March 6, 13 and enjoy a week off after that. The true test of the chemo working effectively will come the early part of April, when Karen will undergo another PET scan. Of course, we want and expect healing and progress to come from the results. However, it will not change our absolute trust and faith in the God who created us for His glory.

Many of you know that I had surgery on October 7, to reattach torn tendons in my left shoulder. The rehab is going well, unfortunately now I need surgery on my right shoulder. I stepped off the deck in my back yard to put out the dog, slipped and hit the ground like a brick. I landed hard on my right shoulder and tore the two major tendons from my rotator cuff. Surgery for this injury will be March 7.

Please continue to pray, as we move forward in perseverance with our eyes gazing upon Him. My challenge to anyone of you, who is reading this March update, is this. Is your faith growing strong for a miracle in your own life because of what you see we are going through? What is your own exercise of faith for God to do the impossible in your life? Together, we will walk this journey of faith for what God can and will do in that which does not make sense.

We love you all in Christ and thank God that you are being led to share this burden with us.

*"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."* Luke 2:13-14

*Pat and Karen Phinney*