



# TABERNACLE

BAPTIST CHURCH

*Where people meet with God*

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PASTOR VOS'S  
UPDATE JOURNAL

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## *Since August 23, 2006*

Our lives have been very different. I went to the doctor's office to learn the results of a biopsy that was done 3 weeks prior in Chicago. My doctor confirmed that I indeed had leukemia (CMML) and that I must go immediately to the hospital and begin treatment or I would not live another month!

Now after many hospital stays, over 200 transfusions, 4 series of chemotherapy and some other health problems it seems we are making some progress. It has been a long and difficult road and there remains more to go. I have completed my series of chemotherapy for now. The prayer now is that my bone marrow will begin to produce good blood cells and I will not need to live dependent on transfusions.

I wish I could report that I have not been discouraged through all this, however, that is not the truth. I have had some real down times but thanks to God's grace, His powerful Word, the prayers and encouragement of the saints and friends and the loving care of my wonderful wife I am doing much better.

*Psalm 117:1 "O Praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD."*

## *May 10, 2007*

Revival was a real blessing! The attendance and spirit was great and many commitments were made at each service. I believe that fruit will be forthcoming for weeks to come. I am excited about beginning our soul-winning training this Saturday with 48 signed up to attend.

The check-up today indicated that although my platelets remain very low, there is no immediate need for transfusions this week. There is virtually no change since Monday. That was encouraging news! My wound is slowly healing but is still painful at times.

## *May 15, 2007*

After experiencing weakness over the weekend I spent Monday getting 3 units of Blood and platelets at Frye Infusion center. I will need more on Wednesday and Friday to build up some platelets. I was encouraged that the doctor cleared me for my annual trip to Alaska, June 8-15 and has connected with the hospital in Homer should I need anything while there. Lee will be going with me this time. (Maybe she will clean the fish. Ha!)

My strength is good today and I feel better than I have for some time. Thanks to all who pray.

*Psalm 75:1 "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."*

*May 25, 2007*

Although I remain dependent on O.P.B. (other people's blood) with weekly transfusions, my strength is good and ability to minister and function is improving. The wound that I have struggled with is finally healing nicely and tolerated without any more pain medication.

I am very encouraged with our church being focused on personal evangelism and learning how to be more effective in witnessing to others.

I know that I am also very dependent on other people's prayers and intercession on my behalf. I know that your petitions are being heard in heaven. Thank you for lifting my name before the throne of grace.

*Psalm 84:11 "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."*

*June 2, 2007*

I continue to gain strength and healing but have been very dependent on OPB this past week. I received transfusions everyday this past week. I am thankful for it but pray for the day I won't need them so often. We are still planning our trip to Alaska June 8-15 and have made advance arrangement with a hospital there should I need blood while there. God is blessing and last month was the first full month since last August 06 that I have not been hospitalized as an inpatient. I am thankful to be in the pulpit consistently and active in the ministry. God has been so good to me!

*Psalm 93:5 "Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."*

*June 7, 2007*

The past few days have been with new problems. I have been experiencing very painful aches in my hips, legs and lower back. At times it was difficult to move or stand. I thought at first it was just arthritis but as it worsened I was concerned that I was coming down with something and I didn't want to leave for Alaska tomorrow and be sick. I went to the doctor this morning and he said it was not a virus but likely the bone marrow inflamed as a result of the disease. He gave me some pain medication and I am feeling good relief now and am encouraged to at least know what's going on. I received more blood and platelets today and should be good to go for the trip. We will be back next Saturday. Thank you for your continued prayers.

*Psalm 97:10 "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."*

*June 18, 2007*

The trip to Alaska was a blessing: The weather was perfect and the scenery was t breathtaking.

The hospital in Homer was very accommodating to my needs and I received several transfusions while there. The long plane rides were taxing but overall the trip and fellowship with other Christians was refreshing. The fishing was off and for the first time I brought home no fish. I hooked a couple of nice ones but they got away. I was so glad Lee was with me this year to see the beauties of the Great Land. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Psalm 108:3 *"I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds."*

## *June 27, 2007*

It was a real blessing to take part in the ordination of our youth pastor, Troy Shoaf, at his dad's church near Chicago. We flew up Friday and returned Tuesday. I got pretty sick on the return trip and found that I needed immediate transfusions, so as soon as I got home the doctor put me in the hospital overnight. I got 2 units of red and 2 units of platelets and was released today feeling much better. It looks like I am going to be very dependent on transfusions, at least for the time being. I am thankful for all those who pray for me all over the country.

Psalm 116:1 *"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live."*

## *July 2, 2007*

This past week has been a week of physical weakness, somewhat caused by a new development. My spleen is now enlarged because of the disease. The doctor has put me on a medication called Gleevec. It hopefully will cause the spleen to reduce back to normal and perhaps help the leukemia also. The doctor said the remission is a long, long shot but worth a try.

Though I had two units of blood and three platelets last week my red blood was not good over the weekend. I felt I could preach Sunday, July 1, and proceeded to do so. However, I was unable to finish the message, due to a nausea attack probably brought on by the spleen. At that point, I asked Brother James Cordell to do what he could to finish the message. The Lord worked through him and people were blessed. Our youth pastor, Troy Shoaf, who was just ordained last week in Bollingbrook, IL (Pastor David Shoaf, his father) also stepped up and was available to baptize his first time. The service was completed in an orderly manner. God is so good! My wife was able to let everyone know that I would be okay.

I saw the doctor today and he plans to increase the Gleevec next week. There may be a side effect of decrease in the red blood count. Here again, I praise the Lord for OPB (other people's blood) as I may need to increase transfusions. Even this has brought to me a new ministry. I have written a tract that I use when going to local blood drives to thank those who are giving blood. It expresses my gratefulness for the blood given to sustain my physical life and then gives witness of the power of the blood of Christ to give eternal life to any one who will receive it. Anyone desiring a copy of the tract, I will be glad to send it. You may contact me on the web-site or at the church

828-324-9936. Again, PRAISE THE LORD!!

Psalm 123:8 *"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."*

## *July 10, 2007*

These past days have continued to be days of weakness for me. I was fairly sure my blood levels were not the problem but a visit to the doctor yesterday confirmed that indeed, I was very low on both blood and platelets. I spent last night getting transfusions and am some stronger today. I will be getting more transfusions Wednesday and Friday this week. I still struggle with "bone pain" that is relieved somewhat with pain medication but that tends to make me drowsy. I am thankful for what I can do and look forward to stronger days.

Psalm 121:1-3 *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber."*

## *July 19, 2007*

Psalm 138:2 *"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul."*

## *August 8, 2007*

Dear, Dear Friends,

## *August 13, 2007*

Hello everyone! Dad is doing remarkably well today for his diagnosis.

God is good! Jesus is wonderful, marvelous, glorious, the Son of God...Blessed is He!

Pastor Vos has shown much improvement since Wednesday when test results showed that he had a subdural hematoma (bleeding) in and around the brain. The doctors are astounded at how well he is doing. It may be that we will have him longer than what they expected. As far as we know, his situation is still very precarious. Things are always subject to change suddenly. For better or worse, we know that God is in control and His way is perfect. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Concerning visits, we are asking that the church family visit between the hours of 12:00 - 3:00 or call first. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Psalm 111:1-2 *"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein."*

Thank you so much for your continued prayers on behalf of my husband. It has been a year now since he was diagnosed with this dread disease. Though the disease has taken its toll in his body, we have seen God work His marvelous goodness in our lives. We will never cease to praise Him! Many lessons have been taught and learned. However, there are many still to be experienced. My husband was admitted to the hospital on August 6th after having a very rough week of pain in his legs and a tremendous weakness in his body. He was getting regularly, 4-6 units of red blood weekly and 3-5 units of platelets. Friday afternoon, after his transfusions, he began to lose blood and experience more pain in his legs that disables his walking or standing straight. We only know that this is a progression of the disease. It seems there is no more that can be done from a medical point of view. Now is the time to see more than ever what God has planned for us. Our church family has been more than a blessing to us. Their support, love, and prayers are beyond measure. I ask that each of you believe as you have in the past that God will raise Philip up once again to do what he loves and desires most in life, and that is to preach the Word of God. Thank you again for your fervent (active, powerful) prayers of faith.

Psalm 145:18-19 *"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him: He also will hear their cry, and to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them."*

Romans 5:2-4 *"We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." All glory and honor be given to Him. Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen and Amen."*

## *August 19, 2007*

I have been encouraged with the reports of good services at our church today. I really miss being there in person. Dr. Joel Spencer is truly a timely help for us during these days. Although weak, I actually feel pretty good. If my blood count numbers were not so terrible I would never imagine that I was such a very sick man. It seems that my marrow is not working at all. I am completely dependent on daily transfusions to stay alive. I am so very thankful for these days of strength and ability to see folks and communicate with family and folks that I love so dearly. I don't know how many more days God will give me but every day is a rich day of drawing closer in fellowship with Him. I have no fear of living or dying. It is in his hands.



*Pastor Vos with Dr. John Phillips*

I had the surprise visit from Dr John Phillips and have been richly blessed and comforted by the messages on tape he gave me. God's Word is still my strength and daily help. I have never known God's presence and power to be more real and vital to

me. I cannot begin to tell you my appreciation for all the prayers, visits and expressions of love you have shown us.

Psalm 63:3 *"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."*

### *August 21, 2007*

It seems that the prayers of God's people on my behalf are perplexing the doctors. They are amazed at how well I am doing. The disease has not retreated. My system is still not producing any new blood, however, the brain hematoma is shrinking and I have regained the ability to walk and getting stronger. I remain very dependent on daily transfusions. Lee has been carrying on with the tract ministry, thanking people for giving blood. My doctor says that I may be able to go out on a few hours pass if my condition remains strong. He also said that my current condition could continue for some time and perhaps outpatient care in the future. I am blessed each day as I commune with the Lord and visit with loved ones. Keep it up with the prayers. When I awoke this morning, at 6:00 am, I declared: "This is the day the Lord hath made, (I) will rejoice and be glad in it." They continue to use the genetic platelets to try and help me keep them up. So, they have started again with antibodies to give the platelets a chance to work better. I think we can expect them to rise again tomorrow. I know that it has been the power of prayer of thousands of believers across the nation praying for me, keeping me, as though I am healthy. It has been a good day, though my platelets have dropped back down to a lower level. They have used and will I have been getting some Physical Therapy the last two days, helping me with walking to strengthen my legs. My doctor says we may talk about going back to outpatient care sometime next week. It is something to carefully consider, as I will need platelets 7 days a week now and probably red blood transfusions at least twice a week. We also want to make sure there is no immediate danger with the hematomas in my head

### *August 23, 2007*

Today has been a great day! It is hard for me to imagine that I am a very sick man. I seem to have good strength and have regained ability to walk and function pretty normal. The prayer is working to give me many good days of health. There is not much improvement in blood counts at this point but the daily transfusions are keeping me going. It is likely that I can at least get a pass to leave the hospital for a few hours this weekend and perhaps outpatient status next week if I continue to gain adequate support from the transfusions. Live or die, I am pleased to be in God's sovereign plan and excited about how I might serve him more on this side of heaven. Please continue the powerful effective prayer.

Psalm 25:4 *"Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."*

Psalm 21:13 *"Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power."*

## *August 27, 2007*

Psalm 27:1 *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

## *August 29, 2007*

I still feel very good and getting stronger each day. The doctor came this morning and as of now, I will be at home after Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, on an outpatient basis. That's at my home in Hickory. I will be going every day for platelets at the infusion center, and red blood as needed, probably at least two times a week. Things are pretty much the same with the hematomas in the head, and with the blood counts. But I feel well and have enough energy to take showers and get myself dressed and walk short distances and even go to church at least once on Sunday. I plan to attend again this Sunday. Praise the Lord, for His amazing grace and His abundant strength!

Psalm 28:7 *"... I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him."*

## *August 31, 2007*

Today the doctor declared how impressed he was with my progress and plans to restart light dosage of chemo to see if anything wants to wake up the bone marrow. The counts look good for today and I feel pretty good. I will continue another day with transfusions. I am still on track to go to outpatient care next week. I also plan to be in church with our wonderful church family this Sunday. How my heart has been encouraged through the many visits, cards and calls, most of all by your faithful prayers which are clearly effectual.

Psalm 31:7 *"I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;"*

## *September 3, 2007*

What a joy for me to be in church again and worship with the saints of God! The visits and prayers of God's people have been a real source of encouragement to us both. I was expecting to be outpatient today but the doctor wants to take a biopsy of my bone marrow tomorrow to see what changes may be taking place there due to my good response to a chemo treatment he has been trying (ARA-C). It has been very successful in reducing my white count but still no platelet production. Due to risk of bleeding he will be getting it from my sternum this time. Real healing for me must include getting the bone marrow active again. In the mean time I feel well and I am enjoying these extended days living on God's grace with daily transfusions. Perhaps Wednesday I can begin outpatient care from home.

Psalm 34:2 *"My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."*

## September 5, 2007

I am still in the hospital after having a bone marrow biopsy Tuesday, this time they took it from the sternum to avoid some risk of bleeding. It is sore but tolerable thus far. We still have not heard from the pathologist as to what he found. I suppose they are looking for some clues or changes that would explain why there is no blood production at all. As it stands now, I can become outpatient status next Monday. I continue to feel well otherwise and thank the Lord for these good days and the good care I get here at the hospital. Doctor says I can get a pass again this Sunday for church. Perhaps I can get one for Hannah's volleyball game also. We will see.

Psalm 35:18 *"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."*

## September 6, 2007

It is now late evening and we are still in room 415 at Frye Regional Medical Center. Today has not been a good day for my darling. He has had a rough

Colossians 1:11-14 *"Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"*

***Oh, What a Wonderful Savior is Jesus, My Wonderful Lord!***

## September 9, 2007

It was not recommended that I try to go to church today. The antibiotics are still fighting the infection and my platelets continue to drop in count in spite of daily transfusions. I am still a little weak from my episode last Thursday. I remain hopeful that I can become outpatient status soon but I must stay here for a few days yet while the infection and bleeding in my bladder clears up. I am thankful for all the expressions of love and especially the prayers. It would be easy to become discouraged without both. God is clearly in control and I am glad to be in his loving hands.

Psalm 40:1 *"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:"*

## September 12, 2007

God's hand has been good! The platelet count was 10 yesterday and with 2 units transfused, my count should be acceptable today. I feel pretty good but now struggling to void enough to keep them from reinserting a catheter (yeouch!!). It may be necessary in order to prevent another infection. My appetite remains good and I enjoyed some fresh bass that were shipped overnight, FedEx to us yesterday from Pennsylvania. Lee & I enjoyed a picnic fish dinner here together. My

extended days had allowed me to be come somewhat “earthly minded” again. My doctor reminded me that I still have a terminal disease and that my prognosis is not good medically. I think that is true for all of us and we should focus more on heaven and the things of God more than we do. I have heard of people who were so heavenly minded that they were no earthly good. I have never met one but I have known many that were so earthly minded that they were no heavenly good.

Psalm 42:1 *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”*

## *September 13, 2007*

Today has been a lazy day and it seems like all I want to do is sleep. I guess that is what I needed, but it is unusual for me. My blood count numbers are down and transfusions have become the order of the day. They have not yet replaced the catheter but I still retain far more than acceptable. I have no discomfort from it but it concerns the doctors because of the risk of infection. Please pray that I might be able to void acceptably. I still expect to get a pass for church on Sunday and perhaps go to outpatient status on Monday. Lee is home making banana pudding and I look forward to trying that out later today. After 40 days in this place, anything from home sounds good. Thank you again for your faithfulness in prayer.

Psalm 43:5 *“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”*

## *September 17, 2007*

After 42 days in the hospital I am finally being discharged. Thanks to your prayers and the wonderful grace of our Lord I am leaving the hospital and against all the odds I will walk out on my own power. I will need to report each day for blood transfusions and CBC check but will sleep in my own bed each night. It will be a joy to go out to eat and attend church services whenever we want.

I feel stronger than I have for some time. The catheter is still out although I still do not void enough to please the doctor. I still have leukemia and it does not appear to be getting any better, however, as long as I can avoid infections or bleeding The weather is perfect and God is blessing in so many ways. Thanks to so many of you for intercessory pray that made this miracle day come to pass.

Psalm 48:1 *“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge.”*

## *September 20, 2007*

It is great to be at home, sweet home! We went car shopping Monday and Tuesday this week to find us a newer car since we sold my truck, that, although I loved it, it was not very practical for us at this point. Our current car is getting high mileage and I wanted Lee to have something reliable

and practical. After two exhausting days test-driving and haggling, the Lord led us to what we both found to be the perfect vehicle for us; (a slightly used 2007 Toyota Prius). Lee thinks it is cute, I think she's cute driving it and the car is fascinating to me.

I have been down a little this week due to a cold-like sickness that makes me weak and I have a sore throat. I have been getting platelets every day but my red blood, hemoglobin, has remained good and I have not needed any since last Saturday. That is remarkable! I have to be careful not to get overtired or exposed to illnesses. We enjoy going to the blood drives and giving out the Thank You tracts together.

Oh, happy day! I was able to get out of hospital on pass to attend church yesterday and what a joy to be with my wonderful church family, hear the choir sing and a great message with Dave Kistler. I feel well and am enjoying every day that God has given me. The Doctor is starting to talk about outpatient care perhaps later this week if the logistics of getting daily transfusions can be worked out. He seemed to be concerned some about the sustainability of the special platelets that I require. Today I am getting 2 units of red cells as well as platelets. My bone marrow remains on strike and refuses to go back to work. Everyone has been so very kind to me and everyday brings new blessings. God is so very good!

## *September 25, 2007*

We have been awhile getting to an update. My husband hasn't been feeling well since Sunday afternoon. He says he just doesn't feel right. This is quite different from his usual response to someone asking him how he is feeling. He tells them, "I'm okay, except for my left side. My left side is never right." So...

He has a few minor complications. His back left tooth was bothering him, so we made several trips – dentist, and an oral surgeon, who were both helpful and very nice, but could not solve the problem. Finally ended up at an endodontist who was successful in solving the problem for the time being. We praise the Lord for the concern shown by all these doctors, and that the procedure went along without any bleeding and with not too much pain. Tomorrow is another day and we will wait to see what is in store for us then. We certainly can not say our lives are boring. Pray for me as well, as I will see a doctor tomorrow concerning my own health. We forever thank you for your prayers and our Lord for answered prayers

"I trust in God, I know He cares for me, on mountain high or on the stormy sea, though billows roll, He keeps my soul, my Heavenly Father watches over me."

Psalm 51:15 *"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise."*

## *October 1, 2007*

There was an update made on the 29<sup>th</sup> but somehow it disappeared. This past weekend was highlighted with me being enabled to preach from my church pulpit for the first time in a very long time. It was indeed an encouragement for me. However, it was followed by today being a day

of extreme weakness and pain. I barely made it to the doctor's office who sent me to get 2 units of red blood as well as a unit of platelets. So after all day at the infusion center I am at home and feel a little better but still weak. The need for transfusions is increasing. They are keeping me alive along with your prayers.

Psalm 61:1 *"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."*

## *October 5, 2007*

These past few days have been much better overall. I am having to take a lot more pain medication than I like in order to control the pain in my legs. My transfusions are more and more frequent as the chemotherapy's works on both killing the bad guys but also kills good cells as well. I am not taking the shots right now. They were very painful. I was able to go to church Wednesday night for the first time in months. Since the pain is better I am getting more sleep and the strength is better. It is good to see and experience God's sustaining power.

Psalm 63:1 *"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."*

## *October 8, 2007*

I had a very difficult weekend with low blood and weakness. My platelets dropped to very low. At one point, the reading was zero. I am bleeding some but so far not too bad. I need some minor surgery but what is minor for most is major when there are no platelets. Friday they will do massive transfusions of platelets and attempt to fix the problem. I still require daily transfusions of platelets just to maintain and 4-6 units of red blood each week. Clearly I am alive by God's wonderful grace and plan. Daily, I am conscience of the commodity of time. I am more and more aware of the stewardship of what is given me. I pray I can do more with the minutes afforded me. It seems I waste so much.

Ephesians 5:1 *"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

## *October 10, 2007*

These past two days have been much the same. I got more blood and platelets today and the pain is more intense especially when I have to sit. It is controllable if I am lying down. The surgery Friday is suppose to help alleviate the problem if bleeding can be controlled. The plan is to saturate me with 4 units of platelets just prior to surgery and then cut the sore place out. Please pray that

all goes as planned.

My tract ministry has slowed a bit with all that is going on lately, however, word of what we were doing reached the ears of the Red Cross senior manager, Rhonda Brooks, from Charlotte. She came to see me today at the infusion center and wanted to personally thank me for encouraging folks who gave blood and for the tracts we are distributing. Showing gratitude is a ministry of encouragement that everybody can do.

Psalm 26:6 *"I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."*

## *October 15, 2007*

Ephesians 6:23-24 *"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."*

## *October 19, 2007*

The pain and the need for pain medication is lessened and the requirement for blood has leveled off. Praise the Lord!! I remain in the hospital until I can tolerate sitting and standing. Much of the problem is from me lying in the same position for so long at a time. I am working on stretching exercises. The progress is slow but at least it is progress. Thank you for praying.

Psalm 77:10 *"And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"*

## *October 22, 2007*

This update is written bedside in Room 400 of Frye RMC, where my brother Philip continues to regain mobility and strength, and his daily struggle with pain in his feet and legs. As he so often says when asked how he's doing: "fair to partly cloudy"! Although it's difficult to see my life-long hero continue to fight so hard through this daily battle, I am heartened by the prayers and support of each of you. Thank you for your love and support.

Yours in Christ, Jeanie (Philip's sister visiting from Rural Hall NC)

II Corinthians 4: 16-18 *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

Philip underwent his surgery on Friday afternoon with very little bleeding. They were able to get his platelets up from 6,000 to 43,000 in the early afternoon. However, when going into surgery

they had dropped to 39,000 at 3:00 pm. God is so good. Philip is feeling okay for the most part, but of course, with the incision, he is still experiencing pain. They are controlling that. They have sent the tissue that was removed to pathology to have it identified, as they are unsure of exactly what it is. He decided that he would like to spend the weekend admitted to the hospital as he had to receive more packed red cells Friday night, and received his platelets Sat and Sun as usual. He may also have to receive more packed red blood today also. This is a matter for prayer, as the red cells seem to be depleting at a faster rate now. He has received 10 pints of red blood since last Saturday, plus platelets every day. Saturday morning we were able to pray about this problem. "Lord, send your power, be Thou our vision, whatever befall, may we continue to praise Your wonderful Name and may others see Your good works, and glorify God, and come to know You, as Savior, as Lord, and grow in Your fullness." I continue to feel His healing in my body and thank Him for His sufficient, sustaining grace. Thank you for your prayers!

### *December 27, 2007*

Christmas has come and gone, that is, December 25th anyway. Hopefully we all still realize the Spirit of Christmas in our hearts and that for the New Year, will resign ourselves to spreading His love abroad to all who will listen and may many receive.

Philip was admitted back to the hospital on December 17 with spleen problems again. He is still there now for pain management, some IV antibiotics and blood and platelet transfusions. They suspected he may have a touch of pneumonia but as it is difficult to see the lung clearly because of the spleen, they are treating him as though he has it. They are looking for any bacteria he may have in his lungs related to the disease. We will talk to his doctor tomorrow about further radiation that will perhaps reduce the spleen more. Because of the holidays, we are pretty sure that he will stay in the hospital until next Wednesday, the 2nd. If he were to come home before then he would have to go back as out patient to get his everyday platelets and blood as needed. The Infusion Center will be closed until after Jan 1.

Philip's general health is somewhat the same, he gets weaker everyday, but still able to get around some. We spent a beautiful time with some of our grandchildren and had a nice meal at one of our daughters. Our oldest daughter and family came by to give us love and wish us a Merry Christmas at the hospital in the evening. Our daughter in Greenville, SC called to give us her greeting and love. Our girls were to spend time with their husband's family this year. I am glad that two of them were able to do so. Casie, Scott and family will take another time to go and spend time with his family in Chicago. We had our celebrating time together at Thanksgiving. God has blessed us mightily in the love our girls and families share together.

We have had inquiry about my condition. God is still in the process of healing me of my cancer. My last treatments are over and the doctor who did the treatments told me he felt I am going to do fine and live. He is a Christian man and a very good doctor. Of course, he, as a human, can't guarantee anything, I will continue to trust the Lord to look after me and I will take care of my husband with comfort and peace from Him. Thank you for your concern and continued prayer for both of us.

*January 8, 2008*

I can hardly believe that it has been over 10 days since our last update. I apologize, as I know many of you depend on this to know how to pray for my husband. He is still in the hospital since December 17. He went in for pain control and that is the problem, even now. He had a short bout with his lungs but they were able to get that under control with antibiotics. We had thought that he may come home yesterday, but on Sunday they increased his pain medicines to a higher level and he is having some trouble being able to stand. Of course he has had very little movement with his legs in 3 weeks, and even less so since he fell about 8 or 10 days ago. He has several large bruises on his ribs, arms and legs from this, but no broken bones. I am with him now most of the day and every night. He has days when he is very weary and unable to talk much, but then sometimes clears up and able to communicate. When he is awake his appetite is much better than it has been in the past. I am not sure where we are going from here. It doesn't look like he will be home any time soon. Please pray with me that God will help me to see His plan for us in this situation. I know that there will come nothing in my life that I am not able to bear, for He has promised and I must never forget, that He will take me from any problem in which I may not. "He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labors increase, to added affliction, He addeth His mercy, to multiplied trials, His multiplied peace. His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto to man, for out of the infinite riches in Jesus, HE GIVETH, AND GIVETH, AND GIVETH AGAIN."!!!

*January 10, 2008*

Finally the doctors have decided that Philip can have less pain medicine and Philip is able to tolerate the pain without it; today anyway. Thank you for your prayers in this area. He was able to stay a-wake more today and to sit up on the side of the bed to eat one of his meals. He also was able to put pressure on his left leg and foot. He actually walked with the walker about 5 feet to a wheelchair. We went to visit Brother Bollinger on the 2nd floor. Brother Bollinger had open-heart surgery this week. Praise the Lord for his success and hoping to go home on Saturday. When we got back from our ride; Philip again walked around the room before getting back in bed. He now feels he can think about going home sometime. There have been some other things come up that have to be dealt with before we can seriously talk about him going. Beside the leg pain; he now has a swollen thumb on his right hand and some kind of virus in his throat. The infectious disease doctor has come in again to try and identify this. We will continue to pray about all these things; big or small. I am reminded more and more of how poor Job must have felt. We can answer to the Lord as Job did; *"I know that Thou canst do every thing; that no thought can be withholden from Thee."* (Job 42:2) And after all is said and done; the Lord will accept our desire to know Him better and give us understanding and joy.

Philippians 1:19-21 *"For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer; and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ; according to my earnest expectation and my hope; that in nothing I shall be ashamed; but that with all boldness; as always; so now also in Christ shall be magnified in my*

*body; whether it be by life; or by death. For to me to live is Christ; and to die is gain."*

*January 20, 2008*

I know that it has been a week since writing anything on the web page. However, it is difficult to know how and what to write that has not been said before. Philip's condition changes so from day to day that if I say he is better then he gets some other complication. He went into a deep sleep for a few days and then came out for a day or two. He then went into a continuous sleep of sorts, where he would communicate with his eyes closed but as soon as he was finished he would be asleep again. This continued from the 11th until Friday, the 18th. He woke up and has since been with us much of the time. His mouth continues to have the blood ulcers and it is difficult to eat and sometimes to talk. The doctors told him on Friday that he should not expect to leave the hospital and go to our home. They think the disease is making his body more and more weak and is slowly breaking down. He will continue to receive the platelets and blood as long as he desires and they are making him as comfortable as they can. Today he says he is pretty tired of it all and is ready whenever the Lord is ready. Many have wondered why it is Philip who is ill as he is and we too have wondered, but the Lord gives us the answer – why not? My husband and I agree that we are blessed in so many ways because of this, we have been brought even closer to know who God is and that He is working out that wonderful plan for our lives. We have had our faith tried and increased, God has proved Himself to us in His Word. Every promise we have read we find to be true. We experience joy unspeakable and full of glory because we feel His presence with us even in this. Hopefully others have seen Jesus in us. We hear of troubles on every hand in our friends and loved ones lives, in our church family there are many who suffer terminal illnesses. How we pray that they too may see the goodness of the Lord through it all. Perhaps it is the results of a New Years' prayer that was made some years ago that the Pastor had us make and put in an envelope and kept for the year then gave them back to us to see how well our memory was. I still desire as Paul did to be that close to my Lord. I fall very short. You will find it in Ephesians Chapter Three beginning in verse seven. The verse written that year was verse ten. I didn't think about that to experience His power may come with the fellowship of His sufferings. His sufferings were much greater, I tremble to think what it must have been like to have the sins of the entire world put upon Him, my wonderful Lord. But at the same time, I rejoice that He did so. Who am I that The King would bleed and die for? Who am I that He would say, *"Not My will, but Thine LORD?"* The answer I may never know, just why He loved me so, that to an old rugged cross He'd go, for who am I? Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer!!!

I told my husband I shouldn't get on here. I never want to stop when I start thinking of Christ and get my mind off what is going on in this mixed up world. However, thinking of Him also brings to mind that we must follow on and share with others His Salvation and the Victory He can give to them if only they too will trust Him. I pray that every one who reads our updates either know Him or will come to know Him and that not only know Him as Savior but grow to know Him in His fullness.

Ephesians 3:8-10 “ ... I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death...”

## January 24, 2008

The joy of the Lord is my strength! There have been some distinct changes in my husband's condition in the last few days. Yesterday he began to go back into his sleep mode. He has been talking to me about the fact that he doesn't have much more time on this earth. He has been able to visit some, with friends, who have come from out of town to see him. I'm sorry that we haven't kept up with everyone but the days go swiftly by and then it is too late. I really don't know what to tell you, except, thank you for all your prayers and concern for us during these many months. We agreed with each other tonight that God could still put those platelets back into him and if he wakes at light here and we find that has happened, there will be much rejoicing. If not, we will still rejoice in His great love and perfect plan. I have been singing to him throughout the day and evening and am thankful for the gift God has given these writers. Some of the most precious are songs written by Franny Crosby. One of my husband's favorites gives our thoughts at this time. "All the way my Savior leads me, O the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings it flight to realms of day, This my song through endless ages -- Jesus lead me all the way; This my song through endless ages -- Jesus lead me all the way."

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."  
Selah

## January 28, 2008

My dear husband feels that he is ready to depart from us and to go and be with the Lord. He told one of the doctors this morning that he, as Paul to the Philippians, is torn between the two desires: To stay with those who love him here and continue in the Lord's ministry some way or to go and be with the Lord, whom he greatly desires to be with and see. Later in the morning, he told a pastor friend and I that he was ready to go and very much wants to go. We both told him that when the Lord was ready to take him and he wanted to go we were in agreement for him to do so.

I had asked specific prayer for Philip's mouth to get better as he goes through this process and this morning it seems to be somewhat better. We also had a surprise of a small increase in his platelets Sunday and today. What made it so noticeable was the fact that he lost blood Saturday and yet the platelets went from 3,000 Saturday to 10,000 Sunday and now to 15,000 today. Keep praying that he can be without pain as much as possible. The request I have specifically for now is that his spleen with quit hurting, as it has enlarged again.

11: 55 pm - I interrupt Philip's health issues to tell you that after writing the above, Angie, the

young woman that Philip has been witnessing to since August of 2006, came into our room to tell him that she was ready to pray to receive Christ. He talked to her recently, sharing that time swiftly passes and that now is the time of salvation. Her mother, who is a Christian, talked to her over the weekend and today told her the same. We were privileged to share the Word and lead her in prayer to trust Him as her Savior and Lord. She says she feels new already and a load she has carried for some time is gone. She wants to study His Word and get to know Him in His fullness. She says she intends to attend our church this coming Sunday and will make a public profession. Please pray for her as she has many obstacles to trip her up. I warned her that Satan would continue to try and get her to do things her own way. She said she would learn to study the Word and grow in Him.

PRAISE THE LORD! PRAISE THE LORD!

If the Lord chooses to give us another day tomorrow, we anxiously await His plan for us in it. Thank you, dear friends, for your continued love and prayers.

Philippians 1:23 “... *I am in a strait betwixt the two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ: which is far better:*” God’s will be done.

## *January 31, 2008*

Pastor Vos is in the last stages of his disease. He is not able to receive visitors now, but please feel free to visit with Mrs. Vos. They request that you remember Pastor as you last saw him. The family appreciates your continued prayers at this time as it is evident that our dear Pastor will not be with us much longer. Pastor’s prayer is three-fold: That God would give him grace for this passing; that God would give grace to his family; and that God would give grace to our church. Thank you.

## *February 1, 2008*

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

As many of you already know, our dear husband, father, pastor and friend is with the Lord. It was a sweet home going. Again God is so good! My plan was for him to just go to sleep and when I woke, he’d be gone, but the Lord had a better plan. The girls, their spouses and I had the privilege of singing words of praise to God, to Philip as he very peacefully and sweetly went to Heaven. Thank you again for your support, love and prayers for these many months since August 2006. I pray that God blesses you all with His grace, His strength, and His power as you tread through this weary world. We can all anticipate with joy as the Father awaits over the way, and we meet on that beautiful shore in the sweet by and by (that is if you know the Lord as your personal Savior).

John 5:13; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:12; 5:8; 10:9,13; Philippians 1:6 - I pray that if you do not know the Lord, you will look up these Scriptures, open your heart and accept Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. You will never regret it. He has never failed me and never will!

John 14:6 “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me.*”