

**“The Lord is far from the wicked: But he heareth the prayer of the righteous.” Proverbs 15:29**

As many of you know, I was admitted to the hospital from the ER with an infection and fever the last week of July. We hoped it would just be an overnight stay, but I had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic, which extended my stay to 3 days. But as God would have it, I was able to get to know the gentlemen in the room with me. He is suffering from bladder cancer and is not doing well. He had to have blood transfusions regularly and was going through a lot.

One night while he was receiving a transfusion, his wife came over and talked, just to pass the time. She knew I was from Delta and brought up the subject of a bad auto accident that occurred about 50 miles south of Delta a few weeks before in which two young girls had been killed. I told her that I had responded to the accident and was able to be there with the parents of one of the young girls and was able to pray with them. She is a good friend of the families of both of the girls. I would never have imagined that I would have the opportunity to comfort a lady while I was in the hospital with an infection. What seemed to be a problem to me was a planned event by God.

I was finally released on Friday morning and went to a doctor's appointment that afternoon. He prescribed six more days of antibiotic infusions that I would need to receive as an outpatient at the hospital. After the appointment, we went back to the hospital to visit my roommate. His wife and sons were there and I was able to pray with them. We also visited and prayed with two ladies from Delta who were also patients in the hospital at the time.

We stayed in Fairbanks so that I could continue the six days of antibiotic infusions. This gave us more time to visit with patients in the hospital and also in the long-term care facility. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to not only encourage them, but also to witness as well. The six days of antibiotics still did not clear up the infection and I had another round of even more powerful antibiotics. After all the treatments, I still was having the same pain. The doctor suggested surgery was the only other thing he knew to try.

On August 25<sup>th</sup> I went to the hospital for surgery and for what was only supposed to be an overnight stay. But it turned into four more days in the hospital. I had some complications as well as a problem with my blood pressure that resulted in a night in the ICU. During my stay I was able to talk with several of the nurses that I have gotten to know during my hospital stays as well as visits during the past year. Some shared things that were happening in their lives and burdens they were carrying. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to talk with these ladies and pray with them. It is wonderful how God brings people into our lives, some times for us to be a help to them and other times for them to be an encouragement to us.

During this whole ordeal there have been so many people praying for us. We praise the Lord for the opportunity we have to serve Him, to be able to use our circumstances to share His love to others, to tell what He has done for us and how He does answer prayer. Thankfully I am doing better and hope to fully recover from surgery and the complications very soon. Nancy's latest blood test for her leukemia was once again undetectable. We are very thankful that the medicine continues to work and that she is feeling much better. She still gets tired easily, but is able to be more active than before. Her annual echocardiogram showed improvement in her heart function and the mitral valve regurgitation improved as well. We are very thankful for all that the Lord has done and is doing.

We truly appreciate all of your prayers and support. Please continue to keep us in prayer and also pray for the financial needs that we have accrued during these hospital stays. Our desire is to be a witness wherever we may be - no matter the circumstances.

Your Missionaries,



Ernie and Nancy