

AN ADVENTURE WITH THE LORD

By

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It all started when I noticed a lump under my chin one morning while I was shaving. Immediately I sought medical attention. It took some time to get a complete diagnosis and learn that I had a very aggressive form of lymphoma.

I call my experience "AN ADVENTURE WITH THE LORD" because it has both physical and Spiritual implications. While undergoing the various tests and seeing three doctors, the Lord let me know that He was permitting this to happen to me so I would be able to do a ministry for Him, and that I would have opportunities to share a witness for Him with people I would not otherwise come in contact with.

My treatment involved six, five day, 24 hours of chemotherapy between November and March, which was more than 600 hours of treatment. This permitted me to minister and witness primarily to medical people, which I actively tried to do. Usually I would give a brief testimony about my long term commitment to the Lord, involving more than 60 years of ministry and that I was trusting Him as the Great Physician to bring healing to me. I also stated my belief in the use of modern medicine to bring about healing and usually commended them for their role. The third thing I emphasized was that I had a great number of Christian friends praying for me.

During this time, I felt like I was in the "eye of a storm" with the Lord and I had peace even as the disease was swirling about me. Saturday morning December 18, I was reading Psalm 118 and when I came to verse 17, I read the words spoken by the Psalmist, "*I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord.*" (NASB) The Lord spoke to me and told me this would be true for me. As a result, I could see that I would be healed and be able to preach again and share the great works of the Lord in my life. My April 4 Pet scan revealed that I was cancer free!

Praise the Lord! I have had some opportunities to preach and also share my testimony with several groups of people, as well as with many individuals. I was so excited to be cancer free!

Suddenly, near the end of May, I noticed that same lump again, which was actually a swollen lymph node. I immediately knew what was wrong. The doctor ordered a biopsy. It revealed that I had a different type of lymphoma which would require me to have additional chemotherapy and I was told that this treatment would be done in the Oncologist office two days in succession every four weeks. While this was a surprise to me, it wasn't to the Lord. It's part of His plan to enable me to fulfill His purpose for me.

Now I have entered chapter two in dealing with my illness and doing my ministry. While I still talk to medical people as I have opportunity, my primary focus now is on patients and their families. I use a different order than previously. Usually I learn about their experience and often learn who their Oncologist is. Due to the fact that I was in the hospital six weekends, seven of the eight doctors in the practice saw me at least once. This has enabled me to relate to each patient better, assuring them, that in my opinion, they have a very capable doctor directing their care. This opens up the conversation so I can then speak about the importance of having a good relationship with the Lord and the value of having a good prayer support system of Christian friends. I give testimony to this in my experience and let the conversation develop from there.

At this time, I don't know what my prognosis is, but the Lord, as the Great Physician is in charge! He let me know several months ago that "*my times are in His Hand.*" (Psalm 31:15) Of course this has always been true and so it is for you. I'm just more conscious of this now than I have ever been. I don't know what lies ahead, but He gives me enough light each day to travel on.

Another verse that means much to me is "*This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*" (Psalm 118:24) (NASB) I'm thankful for every day of life and try to use it wisely. My commitment to the Lord is to continue sharing what He is doing in my life as long as I am able and as He gives me opportunity. I have eternal life now and forever and He is always with me. What better assurance can I have than that? As you pray for me, you are sharing in what God is doing in my life. Thanks.