

Update from the Hornick's - Charlie's Health

To Our Faithful Supporters,

Thank you all for praying for me (Charlie) regarding my health and for Sue regarding all her care for me.

To bring you up to where things stand now. I saw the Oncologist on Wednesday and she suspended my radiation treatments for now and immediately sent me to the ER at Cheyenne Medical Center. The hospital is completely full and the ER was packed. I was there for 6 hours.

In the ER Wednesday night, I was put on an IV and given medication to help with the reaction. My rash is now over 80% of my body. I have been put on steroids, prescription antihistamines, and a pain med (which helps the itching and burning). I was also told to see my dermatologist within 24 hours which I was able to see yesterday.

My dermatologist yesterday said that it is a shot in the dark concerning what was causing the rash. He said the rash is my immune system's way of screaming at me. (I concur.) What is causing the rash is likely a new or old medication or something else and could be a combination of things. He said we may never know. He doubled the steroids and prescribed a special cream. He also said the rash could take up to 6-8 weeks to clear up, but his hope was that the itching and burning would stop in 4-5 days. The good news is that it is not on my face (eyes & mouth OK) or hands or the bottoms of my feet.

This morning my rash seemed to be the worse it has been, but this afternoon, I am feeling some better and there seem to be small signs that the rash is getting better. But we are leaving the healing time up to the Lord. I am having others teach my classes and have been taking it easy here at home. Last night, I had a wonderful devotional in the middle of the night. A dear friend recommended, "A Tearful Celebration" by James Means on grieving. It is an excellent book on the trusting God in difficult times. I finished reading it a little while ago.

My oncologist will call me again on Monday to see when to restart the radiation treatments. Please pray for continued wisdom for the doctors. We really feel I am getting excellent care. My doctors and nurses and technicians have all been so good and each has demonstrated professionalism and care. We are pleased. Plus I have my family doctor from back in Parachute who is quite knowledgeable and a big help and my dear retired veterinarian friend that has a plethora of knowledge as well.

Also, we know your prayers are making a big difference. God has laid it on the hearts of some precious supporters to help us extra financially. The help came in perfect timing so that we have not had to be concerned about the finances so far through this. What a load off of us that has been. We are so blessed to have fellow burden bearers such as you. We are not going through alone. How we praise God for each of you.

I was able to witness to a woman in the ER on Wednesday night. At first it was so crowded in the waiting room. Then one by one all were called back but three or us and I was able to strike up a conversation with a woman sitting near me who also has cancer and was there to get relief from a migraine.

Pray with me that (if the Lord wills) that my reaction will clear up and that I can get back to teaching (we only have 2 more weeks of classes before Christmas break) and back to the radiation treatments. I have had 18 of the 39 treatments - close to half-way. Most of all pray that God will be glorified in this as we draw closer to Him and let others know they can trust God no matter what.

We will keep you updated.

We love you all.

Blessings,  
Charlie (for Both Charlie & Sue)