

The Exchanger

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**The Mission of
FBCWR:**
*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

For indeed
He was crucified
because of weakness,
yet He lives
because of the power
of God.

2 Corinthians 13:4

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Total Healing— Not So Fast

It is almost two years now since I have been cancer free. You may know my story. Melanoma began in lymph nodes under my arm and spread to 4 major organs and 12 total sites in my body. My stomach first—I had one third of it cut out, but I found the stomach is like a Gecko's tail, it grows back. If you haven't seen me lately, take my word on this. Cancer continued to spread to my kidney, lungs, and pancreas. A mass grew through my pelvis to one of my ischium bones (sitting bones) and fractured it. After 3 surgeries and 16 doses of interleukin-2—the doc told me he expected me to die in days. But God moved at the last moment and miraculously and dramatically saved my life.

Healing Continues

My healing has been ongoing on several levels. I no longer have the phantom pains which lingered long after the cancer vanished. The pains would increase and peak on days when I was to have another PET scan—only to subside when the doc assured me it was still all gone.

My emotions have recovered considera-



During chemo, June 2003 with sister Terry. bly from the harshness of the treatments. During the drive to the hospital for my last treatments, I would throw up in the car before even taking the chemo, my mind and body anticipating what was coming. Only recently have I been able to drive by and look at the hospital without feeling nauseous.

I'm back in shape—I once again can play basketball for hours. The first day I came back to visit my hoop friends, I could not hit the rim with the ball—while standing directly under it. The first day I came back to play, I fell down both times I tried to run backwards. Recently however, my hoop buddies are all complaining about how much I foul—a sure sign that things are indeed back to normal.

Helplessness Continues

What impresses me most about God is that His healing power is not more taxed by advanced melanoma than a stage one case of removing a developing lesion. It is only when we have tried everything that we realize how truly helpless we are—all the time. Then when He intervenes, we know He has moved. Nothing is difficult for Him and we should remain in awe of His mighty power. Yet the lessons of hopelessness should not be lost either.

This may sound funny but I don't want to be totally healed from the aspects of the battle I call the "daymare" (a nightmare that is not a dream). During the struggle, God showed me just how utterly weak I am apart from Him. I want to cling to that sense of overwhelming weakness I experienced throughout the ordeal. I want to be able to emotionally identify with those who face the same battle. Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 10:9-10, "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Lord, let me know my weakness so I will be a vessel of Your power. -Joe Fornear