

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

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

*We've Got
Connections!*

But
if we are afflicted,
it is for your comfort
and salvation;

2 Corinthians 1:6

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Thanks for the Memories—Really

They say be careful what you pray for, you just may get it. I wrote in this column last month that though my physical healing was fairly sudden, the emotional healing from the memories of cancer has been ongoing. But I wrote that I didn't want to have all the memories completely erased. There are important "take away" lessons —like how utterly helpless I was, and still am. Now I would have preferred to simply hang on to the old memories rather than create new ones, but that was evidently not the Lord's preference.

Roller Coaster Ride

I was all set to celebrate my two year anniversary of being cancer free, when results of a regularly scheduled PET scan and a follow up CT scan showed "a (golf ball sized) mass consistent with melanoma".

Was that the bell for round two? One of the doctors told me and my wife Terri the cancer had come back. Later that day, however, my main doctor called and said the phrase "consistent with" in the report was never intended to mean it was melanoma. He said further analysis has determined the mass was not malignant but must be some benign development from my stomach surgery. There was also another suspicious area inside my stomach, so he ordered a test to insert a camera into my stomach and do a tissue biopsy. Right after the test, the doc said he saw redness in my stomach and though it didn't appear to be cancer, he couldn't say for sure

until the biopsy results. Several days later we got the news—it was only inflammation and definitely not cancer.

Bedside Manner?

My first response was Whew. My second was praise the Lord. My third response—now was that emotional roller coaster ride really necessary? Why were we told the cancer had come back? Couldn't the doctors have compared notes before one gave us such bad and inaccurate news? And why do those test results take so long —don't they know what patients with the c-word in their history go through? We had been welcomed once again into the imperfect world of modern medicine. A field where normal human error radically increases the difficulty factor for its beneficiaries. Yet God has used them mightily in my life.

*Now was this
latest
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Ultimate Purpose

So why did we go through that ordeal? My amateur assessment is the Lord was keeping things fresh as we prepare to walk with those in the heat of their battle. My wife and I are beginning a cancer support group this month. Was the timing mere coincidence? As it says in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*"

-Joe Fornear