

# One Another®

Ministries International

March 2009

In keeping with the “**good news – bad news**” format, here is the latest.

After returning from the East coast, Rick had his appointment with the medical oncologist and checked in to the Hospital for what turned out to be a five day stay.

**Good News!** He accepted the chemotherapy completely without side effects. Much to the amazement of hospital staff, there was no nausea, sickness, pain or soreness, and his blood count was not diminished as much as everyone expected. He was able to read and actually accomplished some office work from his hospital bed, and was really only limited by the fact that he was hooked up to an IV pole with as many as six chemicals running into him at any given time – some to kill the cancer – some to keep the cure from killing him! Being discharged on Saturday, we went home for a relaxing weekend together on the couch.

**Bad News.** On Monday morning he noticed an acute shortness of breath that found him needing to stop and rest from even the slightest exertion. Returning to the oncologist for what we expected was a belated chemo side effect; he was walked to the ER by the doctor, which eventuated in a readmission to the hospital for a pulmonary embolism – blood clot in his good lung (also later found another in the right arm). Four days on a blood thinner by IV for immediate protection while building up to a therapeutic level of an oral medication that will need to be taken for a full year. Again, Rick was the poster child of the cardiac floor, causing the nurses grief by having to track him down as he wandered all over the halls, IV pole in tow. Marked improvement by Thursday, he was again discharged.

The one side effect of the chemo that he does now have is a very low white blood cell count, which makes him very susceptible to infection. So all of next week he will need to visit the oncologist for shots to boost the white blood cells and tweak the blood thinning meds, while avoiding public exposure as much as possible.

So here we are – secure in the Beloved – and so very thankful for all of the love and support we have been shown by the Body – literally, around the world.

With love, In Christ,

*Rick & Irene*