

May 6, 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

Yesterday I sent the message below to close family and friends who have known the very earliest stages of current medical advent, viz. a trip to the ER on April 26. Things are moving fast. Here's what I sent them and also wish you to have. Thank you for your prayers.

I had a PET scan (positron emission tomography) this morning (Tuesday, May 6), a nuclear medicine tool used for (among other things) identifying the location of tissue that is suspicious for various types of cancer, especially the one they diagnosed in me back in 2017.

I spoke with Dr. Nair, my oncologist, this afternoon (he IS speedy, for which I'm grateful). A CT scan shows probably recurrent lymphoma in the right side of my neck (previously, it was on the left side), as well as in and around the spleen which is enlarged.

What now? It seems that lymphoma is the name of a whole bunch of different immune cell cancers. They need to know which one they're dealing with. So, Dr. Nair is scheduling a biopsy to be done here in Waxahachie. But, for the more aggressive treatment (I don't know what that means yet), I need to go either to Big Baylor up in Dallas or to UT Southwestern Medical Center, also in Dallas. Which I'll choose is still something to consider. That both are in Dallas is a pain in the hinder parts. Barbara and I are going to need driving assistance down the road.

I thank you all for your prayers. I needed fast and accurate information, and it's coming fast! I am constantly grateful for the medical resources available to me, even if they're in Dallas. We got through the Dallas-do-si-do with Francesca 25 years ago, so we can do it again if needed.

I am also very thankful for the pending sale of ICGS' property at this time. With the storm and rain heading our way, it will be a huge comfort to know the Chapel is in hands that will carry it forward for another generation of service to the Kingdom.

Next thing I ask you to pray for are these:

1. That we can get the biopsy scheduled and completed promptly, with an accurate result.
2. That the "more aggressive" treatment plan will be clear enough to me to allow Barbara and me to evaluate with discernment just how to proceed from here.
3. That the physician(s) who may take up my care in Big D are going to be the sorts of folks I can relate well to.

Much love in Him,

Fr. Bill