

April 23

Sept. Bill had enlarged prostate with normal PSA. Enlargement of prostate caused blocking of urine, so he had to have surgery.

Before surgery, the report was NO CANCER - When doctor had tissue of prostate checked, there was Cancer..The Urologist was shocked; needless to say, we were also. Tissue was sent to Johns Hopkins...They said this was not typical prostate cancer, and did 3 tests on it. Doctor referred to the cancer cells as Primitive.

After surgery, PSA went to 7.8, which doctor was glad to see. If it would go down with treatment, then he would know treatment was working. In one month PSA went to 2.8. Everyone was happy with good response to treatment. By Feb. 4 - PSA 1.7

He felt better after hormone therapy. We were glad that he was responding to it.

The same prostate cancer caused spots in his bones. We were told that if the prostate cancer would respond to the hormone therapy, the cancer in the bones would also.

We knew his cancer would not be cured, but felt it would be under control. No idea for what period of time.

He developed severe bone pain in Jan.

Jan. 29, CT was done. We learned that the pain was due to the cancer. We also learned that the cancer was Stage 4 (highest) and level 10 (highest cancer)

WE WERE SHOCKED TO GET A REPORT LIKE THIS..Not at all what we understood from the beginning.

He had radiation treatments for 10 days. Thankful that it relieved bone pain that he had in the pelvic/hip area.

Week of March 7 he was feeling better and able to go to the office in the afternoons, and enjoying going out to eat in the evenings.

Our family was waiting for Bill to request a vacation. He did that on March 7. All of our family planned to go to Myrtle Beach on June 26 with plans to attend his home church in NC, July 4. His sisters and families were planning a catered meal and have a family reunion at that time..

Week of March 14, there was an undesirable change. Obviously some damage was done by radiation, and we do not know whether some of the discomfort that he has in that area is also from cancer. A spot on his back started hurting and the discomfort became more widespread across his back.

CT Scan was done on April 5. Cancer has spread more in his back, along ribs, and returned cancer in a small area that was treated with radiation.

On Fri., April 9, CT Scan on his entire spine, which shows cancer in area near center of spine - predisoned which we hope will help that pain.

Mon., April 12 - We finally learned what PRIMITIVE Cell means and why Bill's cancer is spreading so rapid.

When folks hear that Bill has Prostate Cancer, I hear comments...Well, that it is slow growing and usually something else causes death. O.K., that is Prostate Cancer as we have known of and most people have.

The cancer cells have testosterone and respond to hormone therapy. Bill had some cells like that which responded. PSA dropped rapidly.

Unfortunately Bill has PRIMITIVE cells (almost embryonic) Therefore they do not have testosterone and do not respond to hormone treatment. As in infant's cells, those Primitive Cells grow rapidly.

Monday, April 12, Bill received his first IV of Taxol chemo. and was to receive another one May 3. In 6 weeks we would know if it was working.

Tues. April 20, urologist sent him to ER - dehydrated, staph in urine..Oncologist says he has so much going on and doesn't know whether chemo would even take care of some of it.

We are planning to leave on May 7 to go to Myrtle Beach. Oldest son is renting a large RV to take us to Myrtle Beach, where we have gone for family vacations almost every summer during most of our married life. All of our family is dropping everything to go with us, including taking 3 of our grandchildren out of school. We will be staying in a large house that will sleep 27 people. It is on the shore with balcony for Bill to enjoy.

Sunday, May 17, Bill's nieces are planning a family reunion at his home town in NC. He has 2 sisters, 5 and 6 yrs. older than he is. One sister's husband is in extremely poor health and didn't think he was going to be here Christmas 2009. The other sister will have "Surgery" on Tues. on large lymph Node which is cancerous.

Bill had 1st and probably only chemo IV on Mon., April 12..Rather improving after several days, he got weaker, very weak. On Tues., April 20, He saw urologist who sent him to ER. He was dehydrated, double urinary infection - staph plus another. He has breathing problem, but doesn't need oxygen. HOPING he will improve. The first chemo. has taken care of pain that he was having in his back, which really is amazing, and we are thankful for that, but so much other misery is going on, including very swollen legs from so much IV fluid. He is supposed to eat protein...Difficult when he doesn't feel like eating...a result of cancer. He said it is so difficult to eat, yet knows that he must.

We are praying that we will be able to leave for Myrtle Beach on May 7 and return on May 16, after his family reunion that he has requested.

May 4, Dr. gave him 2 units of blood to boost his energy to help him get more comfortable for traveling. Instead of getting more energy, he kept going down.

Cancer moved quickly to his lungs. Took him to ER due to poor breathing on May 5. We were planning to bring him home on Mon., May 10 with Hospice and Oxygen...He didn't get home. Took turn for the worse.

With no pain and total peace, he left us on the evening of May 11.