
Subject: Maria's back home!

Dear Saints

Maria Engelbrecht (the lady who had been diagnosed with leukemia) is back home from the hospital. We have reported in our previous e-mail how the Lord had miraculously healed her. Thank you so much for your prayers! All glory to God!
I've pasted some extracts from Maria's reportback below.

Eben Swart

Dear Friends!

Finally! Time to update you concerning all the great things that have been happening in our lives since the last email!

Firstly, I must thank you all for all your love, prayer and support that we have received as a family and for me! Thank you for all your emails, the telephone calls, the cards and the letters! People have responded by getting their churches and friends to pray for me, and we have received prayer cover from ALL OVER THE WORLD!! It is so humbling! And it fills us with such gratitude...thank you! Thank you! och Tack så hemskt mycket!!!

Derick and I rose to the challenge! I have seen such an incredible change in my husband! He has pressed into the very Throneroom of God, and you can see it on his face! It is almost as though the Lord has used this crisis to catapult us into His very Presence, and so prepare us for the Mission field!!

Even the children are full of faith! They have been marvellous through all of this! Happy, confident, secure, and peaceful! They have just grown, and they make me so proud!

As I told you in the last email, I was admitted to Constantiaberg Mediclinic for chemotherapy. That was quite an experience! I got my own private room, which was to be my home for the next 28 days. I had no company except the nursing staff and the cleaning staff, who came in on regular intervals...and the only view from my room was that of the top of a syringa tree...and a little spider who diligently maintained his web outside my window.

They started the chemotherapy on the first day when I was admitted. It consisted of various intravenous medications, and a whole load of antibiotics also given intravenously.

I think that one of the greatest miracles that have occurred is this: When I was admitted, they tell me that 60 -70% of my blood was cancerous; it had spread to my spinal fluid, and it had affected my spleen and liver. After about 3 weeks, they did another test, only to find that not a single cancer cell could be found in my blood!, and that all the other affected areas were also now clear. I did not understand the full implication of all this, but when Derick asked the charge sister about it, she said that on the first set of chemo therapy, they only ever expect a 10-20 % reduction in number of cancer cells...and if they are really 'lucky', they may get a 50 % reduction. But a 100 % clearance was quite spectacular! Praise the Lord!!! I am cancer free and thanking Jesus for it!

Well, that episode is now over. I was sent home last Monday, and have spent most of my time with the family! SO wonderful! I went for a check up today, and my bloods and my bone marrow is looking really great!! The bone marrow is now producing white blood cells and platelets all on its own again! And the pathologist who looked at the bone marrow said that it is looking almost normal again!

The professor wants me to return for another course of chemotherapy on Monday. He says that this is the normal protocol, even if there are no cancer cells visible. There will be another 2 courses of chemo, and then a bone marrow transplant after that.

Regarding bone marrow transplants! What this entails is that they identify a donor. He/she donates blood in the normal way. The laboratory then spins out the stem cells, and then give me a 'blood transfusion' with the stem cells.

And those stem cells know to go to my bone marrow, and start producing normal bone marrow! Wow! THAT is just awesome! God is a great God! He has trully created the body in a marvellous way!

Please continue to pray for me!

I love you all, and am so thankful for all your prayers and thoughts towards me! I will keep you updated as to my progress!

All my love, In Him

Maria