

10 April 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you. That's said humbly and sincerely. We are grateful for your prayers; God is listening and answering, no doubt about that. You also encouraged us with your words and cards of faith and hope. Thank you.

We reached a landmark in Steve's treatment and wanted you to thank God with us.

Last Friday, Steve "rang the bell" marking the completion of his radiation treatment. It is an actual bell, and during Steve's 6 weeks of treatments, we occasionally heard a dignified \*cling\* and some clapping as patients finished their last treatment. But not Steve. Steve gave the bell "a mighty one" and his \*cling\* CLANGED around the cancer center at Johns Hopkins. So thrilling! Steve did very well with few side effects, which the doctors, while carefully not making any predictions, say may be an indication of how the next treatments may go. We're now in a month's rest period and on 7 May, Steve will have the next appointment with the oncologist. After that, the basic plan is for Steve to take Temodar (the chemo drug) the first 5 days of each month for 6 months, monitoring with weekly blood levels and an occasional MRI.

We are very thankful Steve has done so well. He still has significant sensory and motor impairment in his left hand and arm and he also has muscle weakness from the steroids. We expect that the exercises prescribed by the physical / occupational therapists will help somewhat with that, and getting weaned off the steroids will also help. His focal seizures are under control with medication.

We hope that if all goes well with the first several months of the next chemo regimen, that we might be able to return to Papua New Guinea mid-summer and continue treatment and follow-up from there. That is our prayer. As in all things, God will lead us.

May God grant you His peace as we walk with Christ to the cross, and in faith, to the empty tomb beyond.

He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

Julie and Steve Lutz