

JULY 2009

In April I began to detect that Ted was experiencing a few memory losses. Tests have revealed a probable tumor in the center of the brain. We have been navigating the medical system and as of yesterday Doug, Jeff, Dee, Ted and I believe we have found the right network of doctors at Cedars Sinai Clinic in Los Angeles. Dr. Keith Black treats with Gammo Knife (not a knife, actually) and procedures other than radiation and chemo when possible. Ted will have a biopsy and another MRI next week on July 14th and 15th. By Friday or Monday the doctors will reveal what the safest plan of treatment will be.

In the midst of this newest life-threatening enemy attack two of Doug's family's best friends have been taken from their young wives, children and our community. Our airport and assistant city manager, Dave Zweigel, was transported instantly to Heaven when his jet crashed during a Fourth of July fly-over, minutes after Lucas, our 16-year-old grandson, helped him take off. It will be a long time before Doug, Luke and Lance, 13, will be able to erase from their minds the horrible scene at the crash. Six days before, another close friend of Doug and Robin's family, Rod, was killed instantly while bicycling with his son.

Woven into these emotionally draining days are couples who come for help in their relationships. How like our Lord to keep us right on imparting His hope and truth in the midst of new awareness of our own mortality.

We met Ed and Judy Underwood for lunch at Cedars Sinai Clinic in Los Angeles yesterday. Ed himself, has brushed by Heaven these past ten years with Se'zary lymphoma. Picture us at noon yesterday: a most critical doctor's appointment awaiting us next door, our three children plus Ed and Judy, laughing and remembering our fifty years of experiencing God together even though separated by states and continents. Ed, military man, firefighter and warrior for the Lord dropped this hard-learned nugget on us: "The opposite of faith is control!" We suggest that you read his book: "When God Breaks Your Heart".

God's Word and your prayer sustain us. Ted has probably the whole Bible running through his mind. I am centering on the words "...who through faith are shielded by God's power..." in [1 Peter 1:5](#).

We trust Him.

— Jo



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