

Sunday May 9, 2021, Mother's Day brought back a flood of memories of the past years associated mainly of family and how we as family members influence each other's lives. Every morning I begin my day with Bible reading and prayer. In this time period I always read two pages in the book "**Why No Fear**", the story of Linda's successful battle against cancer with reminders that God was and is in control and that He has a destiny for our end-of-life. A cycle of reading through this book to completion with then a start over has thus reread the book dozens of times. My reading of the Word includes three chapters, two in the New Testament and one in the Old Testament to complete the books and then start over again. I have just restarted at Mathew and Acts in the New Testament which then I proceed through all of this Testament through Revelation to then start over again. The process for the Old Testament is the same to have just started over again in Genesis and of course the Old Testament takes a lot longer time to finish. We are reminded in finishing Revelation that it contains a blessing for anyone who reads the Book in Rev 1:3 which says, "**Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near**". Further in Rev 22:18-19 there is a warning "**I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plaques which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of this book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book**". Also in Rev 22: 17 there is a direction of scripture for giving the Invitation to others by Faith to receive Christ in Acts 16:31-34. There is a great advantage in repeatedly reading the Bible as it brings new revelations of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. On this day in Prayer, I asked God as I usually do to give me a word for my next subject Post in <https://nofearoftruth.org/>. I do not always get His word but this time I was prodded in my mind to Post what I just read in "**Why No Fear**" the subject of "**Caregiving**" which demonstrates how we as God's children must take care of each other in times of need or even in times of joy and that a man's responsibility indicated in Eph 6:25 is to "**love your wife, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her**".

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The responsibility of taking care of Linda during this critical time in her life was no small assignment and could not be taken lightly. The emotional turmoil for both of us was almost as devastating as the realization of what Linda was going through medically and physically. There were periods of time during pain and physical suffering when I as a man just plain wanted to or did cry and hold her tight to give her reassurances that all would be alright. Not having access directly to the mind of God or the thoughts of the health care providers created a blind spot in focus and emotional responses. On the one hand of reassuring comments there was always the play back of "what ifs". As time progressed and an equilibrium of some sanity set in, I could only accept the fact that the battle and results were in God's hands and the gifts that He has supplied to mankind in the form of medical skill and technologies.

One of my important roles and that of other caregivers was to see that Linda's needs were met. First and foremost were the medical appointments, as well as, acquiring and administering medicines on time. Eating the right foods and providing the right kind of liquids became an education for me as well as her. The toxins in the products we consume to our bodies became a whole new revelation as to how we are harming our health and immune systems of our body. Being reckless in choices of food intake during the treatment process became a no brainer of irresponsibility that could not be tolerated.

Maintaining emotional stability for Linda was no small charge as she has an emotional makeup, just the opposite of mine. As a mechanical engineer with 57 years of work experience (at that time), I have learned

long ago to approach every situation with analysis of the details followed by realistic and rational responses. I completed much research on the internet on her cancer and the many types of treatments. Emotion still whittled its way into my, as well as her, day to day activities of treatments and long-term survival. Providing comfort and empathy has not been a trait that comes naturally to me. I changed through the years of this battle that Linda fought. I still am not what I would like to be, but in these 40 years of marriage we have learned to depend on each other, and I have definitely seen and understood Linda's feelings, pain, suffering, and most importantly her emotional needs.

We have both become better persons and have drawn much closer to God in our Christian walk. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, as believers we have been given all the faith that we need but it is still up to us to appropriate this faith daily and fully into ourselves. Being a "wannabe" Christian does not work in order to achieve all the blessings that God has for us including healing. In Bible reviews and teaching from "true teachers" of Bible scripture I have come to understand that we allow disease to happen in our body, wherein God has given us full access to Him for continued good health and healing. Once a disease takes hold in our organs that has propagated from our misuse or neglect of our body that is or can be healed, a miracle may be required to obtain the healing. Linda had a miracle of healing.

Life on the stem cell transplant hospital ward was as near oneness as Linda and I could achieve. She was fighting the battle of her life from her bed and through the medical procedures available to her. I was in my own cubby and bed in the same room providing instructed assistances to the nursing staff, physical assistance to Linda with potty needs, shower assistance to Linda, and monitoring to Linda's needs for calling for assistance to her from the medical staff. An important role for me was assisting Linda to walk the corridors to which she was confined in order to maintain strength and keep the body working like it should. She made lots of acquaintances on these walks, both medical staff and patients through her asset of an outgoing personality. We both observed many things not easily forgotten in other patients such as the severity of graft-vs-host disease and even death.

I provided many hours of work to my employer which was transmitted through the hospital server system available to patients. I had my own computer and worktables with my murphy bed being a perfect worktable. My work hours were at all times of the day or night, whenever and whatever was required. I did get the privilege of calling food services for that milk shake that was so awesome to experience in the late-late evening or wee hours of the morning. I remember one particular morning of working late that when I went to bed, I slept right through all the activity and turmoil in our room. Of course, the next morning I got severely chastised by Linda for not heeding her call – Um, that is why you have nurses!

During the years when a captive of medical circumstances, importance of future life, as well as quality of life becomes a serious and continuing focus. The Bible says to be content in your circumstances. This is necessary but hard to realize when in the middle of a battle for your life. Linda is a big dreamer, so dreams had to be kept alive and progress had to be shown for milestones of achievement. I kept the home improvement projects going at our home with reports to her while she was confined for long periods in Houston. She was thrilled to hear about the new landscaping, the new deck and fire pit, and the lattice enclosure under the house. If I was not in Houston or at work on my job, I was working on these projects. Having built a number of houses in my many years, these types of projects were not a mystery to me and yet kept my mind off of circumstances and on a tangible future.

Another role that I had which often times was not a pleasant one, was keeping the finances of life above water. There were many new expenses to be managed and accommodated in addition to the normal

monthly costs associated with normal or average families. Although my income is that of a professional engineer and college graduate, many arrangements had to be made to get us over the top in the bills that had to be accommodated. We had raised six children with Linda being a stay home mom so extra savings were not in plenty. But, you know, God says He will supply all of your needs, so prayer and a detailed thought process were necessary to reveal options that were evident or beyond normal into God's guidance.

So, I hope I was able to paint a picture of caregiving to others who might find themselves drafted into a service not necessarily in agreement with their capabilities. The human mind and body are adaptable to most situations. So, taking a position of "never give up" or "getter done" as one TV personality indicates may be stretch but still reachable. Particularly, if you are willing to give up things in your life in order to take care of the more important people in your life, in this case, Linda.

Always remember that "God is on call and that He is faithful and loves you more than you will ever realize.