

Elaine's Testimony

In time of trouble say:

*"First He brought me here.
It is by His will I am in this place, in that I will rest.
He will keep me here in His love, and give me
grace in in this trial to behave as His child.
He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me les-
sons
He intends me to learn and working in me the
grace He means to bestow.
In His good time He can bring me out again.
How and when He knows"*



Therefore I say "I am here"

1. By God's appointment
2. In His love & keeping
3. Under His training
4. For His time

**God's Promise: *Your body will glow with health,
your very bones will vibrate with life (Proverbs 3)***

Little did I realise what lay ahead when God spoke to me from the United Christian Broadcasters Word for Today:

***Fear not, for I am with you. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you, I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10 Amplified Bible)***

3 weeks later visiting my GP for a blood pressure check my attention was drawn to a poster with the words, "Is your body trying to tell you something?" It gave symptoms of ovarian cancer and to my surprise I realised I had some of these vague symptoms. My GP examined me and referred me to a gynaecologist. Scans showed that I had a growth in my uterus and another on my ovary. After having an exploratory operation at Rochdale Infirmary, which revealed cancer, I was referred to St. Mary's Women's Hospital in Manchester for an operation to remove the cancerous growths. I prayed for the right consultant and God gave me a gentle but humorous man who was easy to talk to. He also gave me another Bible verse before I went into hospital:

***As Jesus went along He saw a man blind from birth. The disciples asked Him, "Who sinned this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus said, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in His life." Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva & put it on the man's eyes. "Go and wash in the pool of Siloam." So the man went & washed & came home seeing.
(John 9:1 - 3)***

Jesus was somewhere between the temple and the pool when He met the blind man. The man then had to walk to the pool. God has shown me that my healing will be a journey too. I believe mud and saliva are a picture of divine healing (from Jesus) and natural means (surgical intervention - also under the Lord's direction).

St Mary's is a brand new 'state of the art' hospital - if you're going to be ill you may as well have comfortable surroundings! I had my own large room (NHS), en-suite bathroom and an 'all singing-all dancing' bed! The operation was a complete success, the surgeon was pleased with his handiwork & took delight in showing off my beautiful scar to colleagues!

However, after the operation things didn't go so smoothly: my pulse rate went up and my oxygen levels dropped. After a few days of high dose antibiotics in case of infection (this gave me diarrhoea for several days - Praise God for the en-suite bathroom!) and injections in case of blood clots, it was discovered that I had blood clots on my lungs for which I have to have daily injections for a few months.

During my 2 week stay in St. Mary's God gave me many opportunities to share with others about His goodness, His love, His saving grace and what God was doing in my own life. God was drawing me closer to Himself (He had a very captive audience!) and He was working patience and endurance in me. But it was hard!

You will have courage because you will have hope. You will take your time and rest in safety. You will lie down unafraid & many will look to you for help.
(Job 11: 18 - 19 Living Bible)

God brought one person after another into my room - a lady in her 70's from the next room. I was able to share my own testimony of how I had come to know Jesus. She was a lovely lady from Rochdale who was 74 who looked after her grandchild aged 4. I was able to re-assure her and send her some Christian leaflets - I have spoken to her since coming home. I spoke about forgiveness to a Catholic nurse whose boyfriend had left her for her best friend.

I spoke with a young Ghanaian catering and cleaning lady (who brought some of my meals and cleaned my room) who used to go to church. I told her I would pray and she said she would think about going back to church in Manchester. Each day I said, "I'm praying" and each day she said, "I'm thinking!" I shared my testimony with a young research assistant who had some of my "bits" from the operation in her bottles! I've since been able to send her some Christian literature and have received an appreciative e-mail from her.

When I was due to come home the doctors decided I needed 2 more days in hospital. The following morning a Christian care worker originally from Zimbabwe brought my breakfast. His name was Silas and we chatted about his name being in the Bible. Later he came back to clean my room. "A room for a Christian lady should be lovely, clean and bright!" He proceeded to make an excellent job of the cleaning. A friend had brought me an article from a Christian magazine about Paul and Silas in prison and the fact that they were in prison by God's appointment. God showed me that I was in hospital by *His* appointment:

- 1. For Him to speak to me, to teach me new things, to work patience and endurance in me.**
- 2. For Him to use me to bring glory & honour to His Name as I shared whatever He gave with those I met.**

Since coming home I have been so blessed with visits, more prayer, lots more cards and phone calls from both Christian and non-Christian friends, words from the Lord, delicious meals made and brought for us (equally appreciated by Leon!), beautiful plants and flowers, pyjamas, a hairdo, gift vouchers, chocolates and much more!

I have now just started follow-up treatment of chemotherapy at Christie Hospital, where on my first visit I met a young Ukrainian lady who has twice had breast cancer. I was able to share the gospel and my testimony with her and assure her of my prayers.

I look forward to what God will do in this new situation as I go for chemotherapy treatment for the next few months:

***In a test of faith I'll feel assaulted
and stretched by circumstances,
yet not distant from God;
tried by them but not judged or guilty.
Faith is tested, character refined and abundance given.
(Psalm 66: 10 - 12)***

***We continue to shout our praises even when we're hemmed in with troubles,
because we know how troubles can develop "persistent patience" in us and how
that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for
whatever God will do next.
(Romans 5 - Message Bible)***

***Consider it a sheer gift when tests & challenges come at you from all sides. You
know that under pressure, your faith life is forced into the open & shows it's true
colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do it's work, so you
become mature & well developed.
(James 1: 2 - 4)***

***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness
(2 Corinthians 12:9) - a precious word from Jeremy (chaplain at St Mary's)***

**Please share this testimony with those you meet who may be going through similar
circumstances & feel free to photocopy if you wish to.**

Elaine Greenhalgh (01706 342047)