



THE BATTLE WITH LONG TERM ILLNESS

Our Story: Don & Sue

The only way for me to discuss long term illness is to tell my own story.

MOST IMPORTANT! Being Saved and raised in a Christian Home makes a huge difference in how you approach difficulties, and problems in life, and especially with a major illness.

Having Sue, who I LOVE DEARLY, by my side every step of the way has made a huge difference in how I handle problems, and difficulties.

Our entire family, children, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren, have been there from the very beginning doing everything from yard work to driving me to appointments.

Our church, and especially our Sunday class have been faithful with calls, and prayer through this entire journey.

My journey, or BATTLE, began in the middle of October 2016. I was not feeling well, and Sue and family took me to the ER in Katy, Texas. After testing, they admitted me to the hospital, and did more testing. Lab work led to a bone biopsy. The diagnosis was Multiple Myeloma. Not good news!

Multiple Myeloma is blood/bone marrow cancer that at present is not curable.

The BATTLE begins...

16 weeks of horrible chemotherapy, and steroids! No appetite. I could only taste very spicy, or sweet food.

I lost 50 pounds, and could barely walk.

Pneumonia had me back in the hospital, and later an embolism (blood clot) that passed through my heart into my right lung.

Then - Good news: Treatment is working!

February 17, 2017 – The Oncologist requested my family be present at my appointment. Great News! IN REMMISSION! YEE HAW!!

I was off chemo and was told I could eat what ever I wanted! I gained some weight, EATING LIKE IT WAS A JOB!

PRAISE!



THE BATTLE WITH LONG TERM ILLNESS (CONT'D)

REQUIREMENTS FROM DOCTORS: Because I have little, or no immunity, I must avoid large crowds, and people with cold/flu symptoms. At times family can't even come over because of illness!

PRESENTLY, I'm 8 years in remission, and take daily medication, with monthly infusions for chemotherapy, and sometimes an immunity boost. Doctors recommended we not take the COVID vaccine.

Because of these requirements Sue and I miss being at church on Sunday.

Our family remains strong, close to the Lord!

MAJOR MESSAGE IN ALL THIS: God has been by my side the entire journey!

DO NOT attempt this journey without God in your life. If you don't know HIM, find someone who does. They will help you!