

To All:

Praise God and pass the salad! My white ANC count was 1180 today (normal is 1500, but my counts were 0-10 for weeks). This means that I can stop the one medicine that has been making me so tired and that I can eat salad and fresh foods! I still have to wear a mask until they get to 1500, but the mask has become a conversation piece. ☺ Thank you for praying that these counts would go up!!

We also received some more slightly positive information on donors. Two more from the registry have responded and sent blood. Previously there was only one. There is one more possibility, but that is all that is available through the Bone Marrow Registry. Hopkins is now further testing the three that have sent blood to see if they can definitely be a donor. Of course then they would have to agree to a date and time. Any of the three can back out at any time even if they are confirmed as donors.

Meantime, several have responded to our last email and let us know that they have ordered kits. Some have already mailed their cheek swabs to the National Bone Registry. We are very appreciative of this!! Also, the students at Shippensburg University have organized a drive for early February. The coordinator confirmed again today that if these people will get their results in writing and send them to Hopkins in my name that they will review them as possible donors for me. This will be especially helpful if one of the three possibilities from the registry do not work out.

We are praying that between the registry and friends who have responded that God will supply the right match. We know that peace can be misdirected, but both Steve and I have a peace that God is going to answer this prayer in a very special way. I know that God can put it on a person's heart that doesn't even know me to be my donor.

Above all, I have been so encouraged with the cards, texts, emails, etc. that people have sent. You have literally carried me to Jesus at times that I have been frustrated and discouraged. On Sunday, my mom, in tears, gave me Psalm 34. The Lord had given that Psalm to her as she was praying for me. I began yesterday to memorize it. I know that we have been taught for years the importance of memorizing God's Word, but I am especially experiencing this blessing now. Verse 4 was my verse for today. "I sought the Lord and he answered me; He delivered me from all my fears."

I won't lie. This has been a fearful process. Praise God that He delivers us from all our fears!! I'm counting on His Word and His promises. Thanks for praying that God would help us through this struggle, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually.

Love you,

Becky

Saturday Dec.17, 2011 - About 1:25 PM, Becky's phone rang. It was her doctor from Hopkins. He shared that they have two matched donors for Becky and that they are talking about possible dates in January for harvest of bone marrow and her transplant. There is a third donor that very possibly could be a match. PTL! Two weeks ago, we only had one possibility and were told that the transplant could probably not be in January. We rejoice in this answer to prayer. It is a Christmas miracle/gift that came to us one week before Christmas Eve. Needless to say, we have shed some tears in telling mom, kids and other family members. We thank you for your prayers.

Please continue to pray for the following:

- 1-Becky must still pass several physical tests, exams of organs and how they function before she can have the transplant.
- 2-Continue to pray that Becky will not get infections.
- 3-Please pray for strength (and ease?) through the process.
- 4-Pray for the family that will be helping and encouraging her (and Steve) through the process.
- 5-Pray for the preparation for summer overseas trips and for Steve to be able to move forward. He just received a date for speaking the 10th to 12th of February. We are thankful that Steve has been able to continue with work while Becky has been treated.

Thank you for your concern, comments, cards, and prayers. We covet your continued support during these days.

For those of you who are willing to send a cheek swab to the National Bone Marrow registry, we encourage you to do so. It appears that Becky will be covered now, but there are other lives that you could save by becoming a donor. The students at Shippensburg University are having a drive in Becky's honor on February 6, 2012. Two students came to the house last week to get Becky's story and begin an advertising campaign. They are planning to interview Becky in early January and put her story and the drive on the local university television station. Please pray for the work of these students and that Becky will have an impact in their lives. We thank God for the students and professors who have supported us in this process.

Also, thanks to the many that have encouraged us by saying that they have registered, tried to register, or already sent in their cheek swab.

Merry Christmas,
Steve and Becky