

# *Miracles Still Happen*



As a part of the Alabaster Sanctuary Choir at the Highest Praise Church of God in Austell Georgia, I am reminded of a song that we often sing entitled On Time God. In the past 3 weeks of my life I have experienced just how my God is on time, every time. I have always known that God would supply our needs and answer our prayers. I have known that he is our provider and healer. He has been this, and so much more to my family and I over and over again. How many times have I heard, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord" or "God has his

own timetable" and "Not my will but Thy will be done." Sometimes it is difficult to stand, wait and pray that you can accept His will.

On April 22, 2014 my husband Tony went into the Doctor's office for a routine colonoscopy. I was calm, cool and collected while waiting on his procedure to be completed. The nurse came and asked me to come back to the recovery room where my husband was waiting. When Dr. Singh stepped into the room, I was expecting to be told that everything had gone as planned and we could go home right away. Those were not the words that I heard. Tony's Doctor proceeded to tell me that there were no polyps in the colon but she had found a very large tumor in the ascending colon and it was cancer. I was in shock! The word Cancer alone is very frightening but I certainly was not prepared for what was next. As soon as my husband was fully awake, he was immediately sent to another medical facility for further tests and scans. The Doctor needed to know exactly what they were dealing with and if the cancer had spread to other parts of his body or if it was contained to the one area in the colon. While in route to the next hospital, I called our three sons and informed them what was happening. Our three sons came immediately and sat along beside us with comforting arms of support.

Within the next few hours, my cell phone rang. When I answered the voice on the other end said, "Mrs. Stallings, my name is Dr. Angelos and I am a surgeon. Dr. Singh called me this morning and said that I need to see your husband right away. Here is my personal cell phone number so please call me if you have any questions or concerns. I will see you first thing Thursday morning; good bye." My first thought was concerns??? When I woke up this morning my only concern was completing my list of errands for the day and now I could write a book with a list of concerns.

On Thursday morning, April 24 we made our way in to meet Dr. Angelos. When we arrived we were greeted by a cheerful and wonderful staff. When Tony and I walked into the Dr. Angelos office, he sat down and began saying, "Mr. Stallings you have a large tumor in your colon. Your other tests have revealed that you also have four cysts on

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your liver." He proceeded to show us the film of the tumor and the four spots on the liver. "We need to schedule your surgery as soon as possible." My husband asked again if he was sure that it was cancer. The Doctor assured us that it was indeed cancer and that he would do everything in his power to give us the best of care. He prepared us for having to begin chemotherapy as we went forward in treatment.

We arrived at Northside Hospital in Atlanta Georgia on Monday, April 28 for the eight hour surgery that we had been prepared for. With close to 50 family members and friends waiting along with us for this surgery to be completed, we stood strong in our faith knowing that God was in control. After an exhausting surgery the Doctor came in to give us the news that Tony was doing great, the surgery had gone well and that he had removed the tumor, 23 lymph nodes and the appendix. He removed over 3 feet of the colon, rerouted and reconstructed the large intestine into the small intestine. He also told us that when he looked at the liver, **the spots were gone**. He could no longer find them. We were all rejoicing and were so excited that everything was going so well. Next, we needed to wait for three days to see if the cancer had spread to the lymph nodes and throughout the blood stream.

During a very painful recovery, the nurse came running into Tony's room. She was so excited! She said, "Mr. Stallings the Doctor wants to call into your room, so please make sure that you get the call." Within seconds the phone rang and you could hear the excitement in the Doctor's voice. "Mr. Stallings I got it! I got it ALL! You are Cancer Free!!!! I could not wait until my morning rounds to give you this news; I had to call you as soon as the pathology reports came in." He began to tell us that Tony had the most aggressive type of tumor. He said that not within months or even weeks, but that he was days away from this cancer spreading into the lymph nodes and bloodstream. Dr Angelos said, "**Tony, you are a MIRACLE!**" He said that in his career as a surgeon that he had never seen this happen. He declared that he knew that this was indeed the hand of God. Of course, we rejoiced and called as many as possible to share the Miracle that God had given to us.



We were released from the hospital on Thursday evening to begin a slow and painful recovery. We were instructed to return to the office in 10 days to remove the staples from surgery. When I called to make the appointment for the follow up, the only appointment that was available was for 7 days post op. I was concerned because I knew it was too soon and asked for a different appointment but this was the only time that the Doctor was available. So reluctantly, I accepted the early appointment.

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On Monday morning we walked into the Doctor's office and greeted the kind staff. When the Doctor stepped in, he took one look at the incision and said, "Thank God that you came this morning. You have a blood clot and infection in the incision. If you had waited any longer, by nightfall this could have been a disaster." He had to reopen the incision, suction out the blood clot and infection. Once again, the Doctor said, "**You have someone upstairs that is looking out for you and thinks you're pretty special.**"



Although we left there with an open incision that has to be changed and packed two times a day, we left with yet another Miracle!

Our God is still doing miracles today. Eyes have not seen nor have ears heard what our Father has in store for his children. As the song that our choir sings says, "He may not come when you want him, but he'll be there right on time. He's an on time God, yes he is."

***Blessings and Miracles are coming your way!***

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