

Subject: Hello from Detroit
Date: Friday, August 15, 2008
From: Craig C.
To: Randy H.

Randy,

I think you may have received an email from Caring Bridge that requires some explaining.

Joan became sick almost immediately after her return from out west; we thought it may be food poisoning or e coli. After a lot of testing including a bone marrow biopsy it was determined that Joan had MDS (ed note: Myelodysplastic Syndrome) (a pre-leukemia condition that is a rare result of chemotherapy). Less than a month later the diagnosis is Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. Joan's brother Art was determined to be the best match for a BMT (transplant) and is with us now. Joan will begin some intense chemo and then receive the transplant some time later next week. Everything has been happening very fast and it's all a little surreal. Please share this information with my friends at Pathfinders - we will be grateful for any prayers sent our way.

I am more grateful to my friends at Pathfinders where I found sobriety and to the people I know in AA than I can tell you. I would have never been able to deal with a situation like this still active in the disease of alcoholism (truth is Joan and I probably wouldn't have stayed together or had our 3 children). As difficult as things have been we have handled it like a job that needs to be done and both have great outlooks moving forward. The past 10 years with my wife have been the best years of my life because I was sober 9 ½ of them. Almost 2 weeks ago we were told that our insurance was denying Joan's BMT - this is one of those situations that would have "baffled us" and been beyond my control 10 short years ago. This time I was able to speak to the CEO of Karmanos Cancer Institute and the CEO of BCBS (ed note: Blue Cross Blue Shield) Michigan (who I've met through work) and ask them for their recommendations how I should proceed. They made a few calls on our behalf and the problem was resolved in less that 8 hours. I am not trying to say I am of any importance, simply that my reputation is intact today because of AA and that right living can make a world of difference.

We have a lot of challenges and I know that I will live up to my responsibilities as a husband, father and employee during this time because of faith in God and the fellowship of AA. Think good thoughts for us all.

Love,

Craig