

"You Saved My Life"

*Shane Varga Update, 10/17/09*

What a journey these last six months have been. My last chemo was on October 2nd and that part is now past me. However, this is not the end. Even after my cancer was gone less than two months into treatment, my doctor, along with several other opinions, have recommended that I undergo radiation. Radiation would consist of four weeks worth of treatments in which I would go every day except weekends until I completed 18 treatments. Just when I was getting ready to get back to normal, it looks like the journey will continue.

Even though I have to go through radiation, I consider the most difficult part over. I just wanted to take a second to thank everyone out there who supported me through this pivotal time in my life.

At my darkest hour I found plenty of light. Much of that was due to the encouragement, support, and concern of both people I knew well, all the way to people I did not know at all. Many people have said "you find out what type of character you have when you experienced something like this".

I tend to think you find out what type of character those around you have when you go through something like this. Again, I was amazed at how many special people I am surrounded by.

Students, friends, family, teammates and strangers provided support and encouragement all the way to the end.

*If attitude is everything in defeating something like this, then all of you can take credit for saving my life.* I think God puts people into your life who you need even when you don't realize you need someone. Its not that I didn't think I needed people, it's just I never thought the amount of those supporting me would be so great in number. This has truly been one of the best experiences of my life and I would not trade what I have endured for the world.

Growth takes place at difficult times and sometimes it hurts. This experience was life changing for me. It made me a better person in so many ways and it made me take a look at life with a whole new perspective. I have said it before and I will say it again, bad things that happen are often times for opportunities. Opportunities to grow, go another direction, or even let go of certain things. The key to making it through these times are attitude and support. Especially in times that make us question the big picture and when things seem too difficult to continue on.

Life is truly a test of endurance, but with the right outlook we may just find purpose and meaning.

Sometimes it takes those really difficult times to open our eyes, but we become better for persevering. However, that all depends on how we choose to view that which crosses our daily path.