

Shane Varga Update: "The power of prayer has worked..."
by Shane Varga, 6/16/09

I had my PET scan today and it put me at a loss for words!

My appointment was scheduled for Thursday to find out my results, but I was able to find out today. The hopes of my doctor were that the large mass in my chest would shrink enough to figure out the next step of therapy. If it shrinks to one mass, I need radiation. If it shrinks to two smaller masses, I continue with chemo only. The bad news is that it did not shrink to two smaller masses.... the good news is the *cancer is 100% gone!*

I am still in shock. I feel almost like I did when I heard that I had cancer. To be honest, I never doubted for a second that God would heal me, but I would be lying if I told you that I expected this outcome today.

Even when I found out I had cancer, and I didn't know what kind it was, or if it would take my life, I never cried. Today, I wept over and over and over. I have never been more elated in my life and it was not because I found out I was in complete remission from my cancer. I was so proud that everyone who prayed for me could be rewarded by being a part of one of God's many miracles.

There are so many young Christians, people who didn't usually pray, and people who pound out hundreds of prayers

a day that have been praying for me through this. At times, it just makes me feel that Christ used my situation as either a motivation, pat on the back, or an eye opener for those who showed their faith for my cause. We are all at different places in our lives with our relationship with God and today's results will mean something different to each person who has the opportunity to digest what has happened at this stage in my life. I only hope and pray it will at least show everyone a very small piece of God's power, grace, mercy, and most importantly, love. Our faith is what He wants. It is so small and so easy, yet the most difficult thing we will ever have to decide on in life: To believe or not to believe. Given my circumstances and outlook during this time I choose to believe that God has really blessed me.

When I was going through this at first, I asked God to give me wisdom on my situation. Many people were upset because of this happening to me. They said "why do bad things happen to good people". I know that gets said a lot, but when it comes down to it, are any of us really good? Sure some people are very kind and amazing I know, but in God's eyes He loves us all the same no matter what. My point is, sometimes things just happen because after all, we are human. Many times, it is a direct result of our own choices whether people know it or not. The wisdom I got was this: **Our time on earth is a series of trials.** It is not supposed to be easy and just because we believe in God or do His work does not mean we get a free pass on trials and tribulation. The more we give our life to God, the more Satan would like to occupy our time to make sure that doesn't happen. Satan has a very limited time of authority with his rule on earth. Therefore, nothing will be easy here. If we didn't have trials in our life, why would we need a higher power? I know I love God with all my heart, *but the shameful thing is that the better my life is going, the less time God gets.*

The past few years I have really tried to change this because there is one HUGE lesson about that. It is not about me, it is supposed to be about others. It took me almost 30 years to realize that when my life is going great, it does not mean I am living right by Christ. I realized it one day as I was so low in my life that only thing that gave me joy was to give others joy. That is when I realized why all those years when I had everything I could want, I was still empty. No amount of money, possessions, or awards could permanently fill that. It could take it away for a time, but I always needed more because it didn't last. It was only after I started living for others that I was truly fulfilled. That's one of the reasons I joined Street Kids Softball, so I could make a difference in other people's lives. Life is about helping others because that is what God wants. We are all brothers and sisters so, why would we not want to help each other through life's troubles? We are here for support and encouragement of each other.

There is no greater example of this to me than what you have all meant to me during this time. From my family, my wonderful and supportive wife, to my friends, my co-workers, the softball community, to my former students and to those I don't even know that took the time to either call or write a special note on the website message board. Thank you all for your support, because I truly feel, that along with God's grace and power, it saved my life.

Sorry to preach if you were just expecting an update, but from the start I felt that my cancer was about others rather than me. If God wants to use me to make a point, than I am honored.