

The Greenwood Report

February 2016



I want to let you know about something that I had asked Craig not to tell you about last month.

As you know, I went to Turkey on a mission trip in November. Before I left I had my annual mammogram and was called in for a second one. After that one, the doctor said they had found an area of calcification and I needed a biopsy to determine if it was cancer or not. I could not get in for the biopsy before I left the country, so I had it the day after I returned. On the Monday before Thanksgiving I found out that I did have breast cancer. It was diagnosed as stage one and stage zero and was very small - so small, in fact, that there was no lump. This was the earliest stage that it could have possibly been found.

On January 4th I had a lumpectomy. My recovery has been amazing ... I had no pain at all. At my follow up visit we learned that all went well – the cancer was three millimeters in size and the margins around what they removed were adequate. The lymph node that was removed was clear as well. Since the cancer had not progressed to the lymphatic system Chemotherapy is not necessary.

I started the first of six weeks of radiation last week. Since my cancer was estrogen based, for the next five years I will be taking a pill which will suppress the estrogen in my body. The bottom line prognosis is that someone such as myself with such an early detection has a cure rate of 98%. So we are very thankful for that.

The reason we waited before telling about this in our newsletter is that I needed to wait for my dad's health to improve before I told him, and I was concerned that he might hear through the grape vine. He is 89 and fell in October breaking his shoulder in two places. This then had him in a rehab facility until almost Christmas. Normally that wouldn't necessarily prevent us from telling him, but the situation was compounded by my brother dying of cancer last year - he didn't tell my dad about the diagnosis until the weekend before he died. So hopefully you understand the reasoning why we didn't widely publicize my condition sooner.

Of course, we would appreciate your prayers as we continue to deal with this.

Sheila

PS: I encourage ALL of my lady friends to make sure you get your annual mammogram. You can't fight it if you don't know about it.

Craig and Sheila Greenwood
1611 W El Monte
480-786-6527
craig.greenwood@cru.org – GreenwoodMinistry.info