

Bits of Home Chat: You've heard the saying "When it rains, it pours"; we feel like physical, emotional, and spiritual testing is pouring around here, but with it has been lots of reason to go on serving God and go on trusting God. Carl started passing blood clots and blood in his urine 6 days ago. We thought it was probably kidney stones. We knew to wait it out a couple of days. It started on thanksgiving at midnight. Carl chose to wait till Monday so offices and hospitals would be up and running. There had been no change by Monday, so we called his urologist's office. They were closed for the week, so the answering service sent us to our local hospital ER where we sat in the waiting area, with all the sick people for 4 hours without being seen. They did have him give a urine specimen just after we arrived. At the end of 4 hours and with only one other old couple left sitting, they called us to a room where they normally check people in and told us a doctor would talk to us. The doctor seemed mixed up and confused. He even read the chart wrong and said Carl looked really good for being 99 years old. Carl said, "I am 77 years old". The guy just laughed and said that he was looking at the wrong thing. He told us to get an appointment with a urologist and said Carl needed a scan done and to come back the next day. We were to be in Pittsburgh the next day for chemo! ! The next day we went to Pittsburgh to the cancer center. We had been in touch with our nurse there. They felt very bad that Carl had been through all of that, so they tried to get his scan done at their adjoining hospital. The nurse made a 12:15 appointment there and had us go down to the cancer center 2 hours early. The center did all the necessary bloodwork, checking of vitals, etc. for chemo. Long story short, the other hospital accidentally put the appointment in for the next day and could not work us in unless chemo could be finished, and we could be back in their hospital within the hour! The trek from one to the other is at least 10 minutes each way! That was out. By the time we got back to Hillman, Dr. Kelly told us the bloodwork showed a drop in blood platelets that was enough to keep them from doing chemo because it would further affect his body's ability to clot the blood and could cause excess bleeding. Every person who knew us at Hillman CC expressed heartfelt sadness for all we had been experiencing. At that point, Dr. Kelly, the urology oncologist, asked us to endure one more trial. She asked us to go to Shadyside hospital ER (same hospital they had sent us to earlier) to have them do scans, tests, etc. so they could have an actual diagnosis with whatever treatment was needed. After several more hours, we had a diagnosis, medicine, and peace of mind. Indiana hospital said there was no infection. Shadyside found that he did indeed have an infection which was causing the bleeding and clotting. They started him on antibiotics and sent us home with a prescription to continue with. We will have chemo rescheduled but that means another day off work for our son, a day he could have had some time off his demanding job and time with his wife. We left here just after 10 AM and got home about 10:30 PM. That kind of stuff is hard to take, remaining patient and Christ-like but we managed, which is only because of the Holy Spirit. That being said, let us share that, through those hours we

were able to share salvation, guide a searching Filipino NA to our website for Biblical help (she said she was searching for something like that), give a tract to a Chinese man, and share the gospel story with an unsaved secretary who listened intently. Before we left the hospital, we were thanked profusely for being so patient and gracious. We were safe on the road, had time with our son, and got to see some beautiful Christmas decorations lining the glass enclosed crossway over the street that is between facilities, and on the after dark, drive home. All I can say is that God is still in control. He allows these kinds of things, has a purpose, and cares how we respond and what we do with His gospel. I hope this helps each of you as you endure whatever God is allowing in your life. Love to all, Carl and Kay Earley



Focus or Memory Verse: **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. {shall call: or, thou, O virgin, shalt call} Isaiah 7:14**

Verses to Ponder as to Jesus' birth foretold:

The time: **Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (in Nehemiah's day) unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.**

The place: **Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**

The Miracle: **Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. {shall call: or, thou, O virgin, shalt call}**

Compare these to Luke 2