

December 19, 2022

Waxahachie, Texas

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

I had a 180-day post therapy PET scan on Friday (Dec 16), and just got the radiologist's report posted to my online patient portal late last night. The summary is a clean scan. For those of you who are fascinated by the medical arcana of such diagnostic procedures (I am, for one), here's some of what I can copy/paste from that report. If this stuff bores you, just skip down to the heading that follows after this next one.

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT**

### **IMPRESSION:**

1. FDG PET/CT scan demonstrates interval decrease in size and FDG uptake of previously noted right axillary lymph nodes compared to prior study, with minimal FDG uptake by the small residual axillary nodes (Lugano 2).
2. No evidence of new FDG avid lymphadenopathy or lymphomatous mass lesions. Previously noted small nodes in the abdomen and pelvis are unchanged, with minimal FDG uptake (Lugano 2).
3. Interval decrease of previously noted mild FDG uptake associated with cutaneous thickening at the midline anterior chest wall, likely improvement of cutaneous inflammation.
4. Two small foci of mild FDG uptake associated with groundglass opacities in the right lung, likely representing inflammation/infectious process. Follow-up with CT chest.

### **EXAM: PET/CT WHOLE BODY**

**COMPARISON:** Prior whole body FDG PET CT 9/22/2022.

### **FINDINGS:**

Intracranial structures: Unremarkable.

Maxillofacial: Unremarkable.

Pharynx, suprahyoid, infrahyoid neck: Unremarkable.

Head/neck soft tissues, thyroid:

- No FDG avid cervical lymph nodes.
- Thyroid is Unremarkable.

Heart: No pericardial effusion.

Mediastinum and axilla:

- No FDG avid mediastinal or hilar lymph nodes.
- Interval decrease in size and FDG uptake of previously noted right axillary lymph nodes. For example, a right axillary lymph node now measures 0.9 x 2.6 cm and SUV of 2.2, compared to previous 1 cm x 3.3 cm and SUV of 2.8.

Lung/pleura: There are foci of mild FDG uptake by the groundglass opacities in the right lung, one at right upper lobe with SUV 1.7, and another at right middle lobe with SUV of 2.2.

Pancreas: Unremarkable.

Spleen: Unremarkable.

Adrenals: Unremarkable.

Genitourinary: Unremarkable.

Gastrointestinal: Prominent intestinal FDG uptake, likely related to metformin use.

Peritoneum/retroperitoneum: Unremarkable.

Abdominopelvic vascular: Moderate atherosclerosis.

Body wall soft tissues: Interval decrease of previously noted FDG uptake associated with focus of cutaneous thickening in the midline anterior chest wall, with SUV Max 1.02 (previously SUV Max 1.65).

Extremity soft tissues: Unremarkable

Bone: No suspicious FDG avid osseous lesion. Interval resolution of a small focus of FDG uptake in the distal sternum. Degenerative changes noted within the sternum, ribs, spine. L1 vertebral body attenuation: 118 HU, decreased.

A lot of techie jargon, no? But, to me it is the sweetest music! All the lymphoma sites which on June 19 were about to overwhelm my body are now gone. The very few sites which ***might*** have been harboring cancer cells *are still shrinking 90 days after the previous PET scan*. This confirms that the re-engineered T-cells which were released into my body to kill the cancer are still present and doing their work! Compared to the robust aggressiveness this cancer showed this time last year, we now have good evidence that the cancer is in full remission and may soon be eradicated (if it isn't already).

## NEXT STEPS

As I indicated in an earlier update, next year will be devoted to rebuilding my sorely depressed immune system. I currently need periodic infusions of immunoglobulin antibodies - something like temporary vaccines - until my own body can generate its own antibodies. Then

I'll need to receive all the vaccines which I formerly had since childhood (!) which is going to be a lot of vaccinations spread out over 2023.

## LOOKING AHEAD

I noted in a previous update that as a remission, or even a total cure, increasingly looks like what the Lord has granted us, the big question that surfaces in my mind is "Why?" You see, when I began this particular challenge, I was already "old" - 73 years old, and the ordinary lifespan is 70 years (see Psalm 90:10). If I had died in the previous 18 months, it would be entirely ordinary so far as lifespans go. But, our heavenly Father has heard all our prayers and has granted me this reprieve from what promised to be a swift and completely unremarkable exit from this world - except for the infrequency of the disease by which I departed.

If I have, therefore, this extra lifespan ahead of me, how shall I **best** spend it?

The question arises from that word **best**. I certainly do not lack for things on which to spend the remainder of my days, whether they be short or long! There is, for example:

- Thee ministry which Barbara and I began together 30 years ago - mining a basic Biblical doctrine of manhood and womanhood, then writing educational publications and distributing to as many of our church communities which need them;
- Encouraging and aiding our daughters as they are advancing in their own Christian pilgrimages, rearing their own children, managing their own homes, and loving and supporting their own husbands; and,
- Aiding, encouraging, and praying for particular Christian family and friends who face burdens which I can lighten by my prayers and labors on their behalf.

These things (which I've already pursued prior to the cancer) are certainly worthy of my remaining days! If our Lord has some goal which these efforts can realize - goals which have not yet been attained - then, perhaps, this merits some additional span of life before I depart.

Or, perhaps our Lord in His mercy and grace, is willing to assign to me a task which I have not yet undertaken.

A disclaimer - I'm not wanting to know ahead of time what our Lord intends to accomplish by allowing me these extra days. On the other hand, I do wish very much that, whatever He wishes to accomplish in me, I will succeed in fulfilling His good will for me before I depart.

So, pray for that outcome. Meanwhile, we can leave in His wise hands just how that outcome will be achieved.

## Remaining Matters for Prayer

Our Lord has heard us! Scripture tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) to petition Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think

(Ephesians 3:20). So, here the things which I am praying in the aftermath of our Lord's recent kindnesses to me, because you all have joined me in many prayers this past year:

- That I find success in my physicians' rebuilding my immune system, and that in the meantime that I will escape disease to which I am presently vulnerable;
- That the next PET scan (six months from now) will also be as encouraging as this last one is;
- That our Lord will guide my steps along the path that best redeems the additional days of life He has granted me;
- That my dear wife Barbara, who has had her own burdens while she has helped me carry mine over the past 18 months, will recover her strength and a renewed focus on the many good works she has walked in all of our 41 years of marriage; and, finally,
- That all of you who have journeyed with us will reap an abundance of renewed faith in our Lord's power, His grace toward sinners, and His mercy toward those who belong to Him.

I will write to you all again sometime in January, once the holidays are concluded and the remainder of my treatment plans (the vaccinations, etc.) are scheduled.

Merry Christmas to you all! May the Lord grant us all a productive New Year.

Much Love in Him (see photo below),

Fr. Bill Mouser