

May 2008 Update

April flew by after we sent our March update. Several things happened that have made us feel a bit out of control—in survival mode. Today I'm just sharing some prayer requests.

Please Lift Up Ian's Mom, Carol Clough



My mom has had a variety of health challenges over the last year or so. She has been diagnosed with diabetes. She fell and broke her hand some time ago. Then, later, problems with her shoulder started cropping up. Finally she ended up in the emergency room because she was retaining fluids.

Fortunately she has been overcoming all of these challenges bit by bit. But in the midst of all of it, she was getting some unusual test results related to her kidneys and her blood. A biopsy was performed and on April 8, she got a diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma. As the Lord foreknew, the next day she was on a plane to Los Angeles to see her granddaughter and us. The

diagnosis sobered us all, but we were able to enjoy some precious times with her here.

Also, Carol prayed with the MacLennans, our landlords, for healing. The Lord spoke through His Word many wonderful promises. It was a special time. I saw the Lord working in her faith in a whole new way. On her way back to Washington, Carol was able to pray and minister to someone in LAX.

Upon returning she was given a bone scan, and we were amazed at the results: She had no cancer in her bones, only in her blood—a condition referred to as Smoldering Myeloma. No treatment is necessary, and it may stay like this for years without any change. However, I would like to pray that even the cancer cells that are there would be completely eradicated. Whatever the case, we are all so relieved and thankful to God.

Pray about Ian's Computer

I mentioned in the March letter that I am on ISI's tech committee. As a smallish non-profit spread out across the country, ISI also has a very small IT staff. So a group of field staff, who have varying degrees of experience, have been planning for ISI's future tech needs.

While my mom was here, my laptop stopped working. It caused me to think about a new solution for ISI. I am talking to others about the idea, but would you pray that God would provide the right laptop for me, and that, if He wants to use this situation to help others, we could see how.

Pray for Two Opportunities on May 17-18

Erin will be hosting a International Women's Overnight at our home with the theme: Women of Beauty. Please pray for divine creativity as she plans for this special time. Besides fun, food and girly activities, she's thinking she'd like to have gift bags and a special talk with them.

Ian will be in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park scouting for an August campout with the students. Two students and Felix, an ISI volunteer, will join him. Pray that we can speak into these guys' lives.

Thanks so much,

Ian and Erin Downs