



*Ethel Wilson*

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It is hard to believe that we are already a month and a half into 2013. The time flies by so quickly. I'm so thankful that every moment is under God's direct supervision.

## Health Update

I had hoped and planned to get this letter out to all of you much earlier with updated information regarding my health. However, an unexpected hospital stay resulting from some complications with prescribed iron pills, and the details involved with preparing for surgery, interfered with those plans.

I mentioned in my last letter that I would be undergoing a biopsy on December 18 and possible surgery after the first of the year. The biopsy did indeed indicate that one of the masses was cancerous. The other tumor could not be biopsied until they removed it, so surgery was scheduled for January 30. I entered the hospital on January 28 for necessary preparations (remember the medical system is quite different here), and on January 30 surgeons performed a full hysterectomy and removed some other things as well. I was diagnosed with both uterine and ovarian cancer, although we are still waiting on the final pathology report to know just what stage each of the cancers is considered to be. The doctor believes both were caught fairly early though.

God has continued to pour out His peace upon me, though of course there have been some fearful and tearful times. But His peace and the prayers of God's people continue to sustain me. My church family here has been a wonderful source of help and support. And Christian friends around the world have upheld me with their prayers. It was a tremendous blessing that my BIMI Field Director, David Harris, and his wife were already planning to be in Japan at the time of my surgery. Brother Harris made a special trip down from Northern Japan, and his wife and son flew in just the night before, but they were able to be there throughout the surgery. Both they and my Pastor here (fellow BIMI missionary Ed Navato) were a great encouragement to me both before and after the surgery.

I am doing well now with recovery. I was released from the hospital earlier than originally planned (a week and a half after surgery instead of 2 weeks). I'm walking and moving quite well and having very little pain. I actually feel better than I've felt in several months.

However, I will still need to have follow-up chemotherapy treatments. This is apparently standard procedure to deal with any cancer cells that may have escaped during surgery. The current plan is for me to have a round of six treatments, with them spaced every 3-4 weeks. The first of these treatments needs to be done in the hospital. I will be admitted on Monday, February 18, will have a central venous port inserted on Tuesday, February 19, and will have my first chemo treatment on Wednesday, February 20. I must admit that I am REALLY not looking forward to this, but I know that this too is all in the Lord's hands. ***Please pray that the Lord will continue to give me His peace through this next phase.***

I will also ask once again for the same things I asked prayer for last time:

1. ***that the Lord will have His perfect way in my life***
2. ***that if it be His will, He will heal me completely***
3. ***that He will give me many opportunities to witness for Him throughout this adventure***\*\*Praise: my doctor, some of the nurses, and some of my fellow patients were at least receptive to various tracts that I offered them.
4. ***that He will continue to provide for my financial needs***\*\*Praise: the Lord has provided through various means, including some special love offerings, a special program reducing some of the medical expenses, and a better yen rate than we've seen in quite some time—but **there are still financial needs.**
5. ***that God will be glorified in my life***

Thank you so much for your prayers, even when many of you did not know specifically what was going on. God always knows!! And thank you as always for the faithful financial support from those whom God has led to be part of my financial support team.

In His Service,

*Ethel*