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Thank you so much for your prayers, and for the emails and cards I've received from many of you. These past 3 months have been filled with many challenges, but God has, as always, been such a comfort and strength to me.

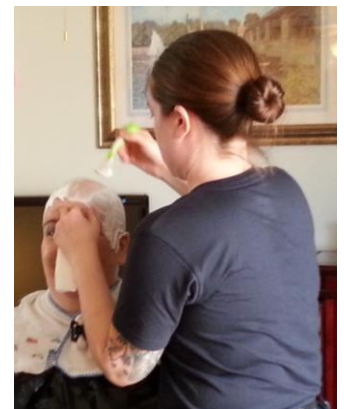
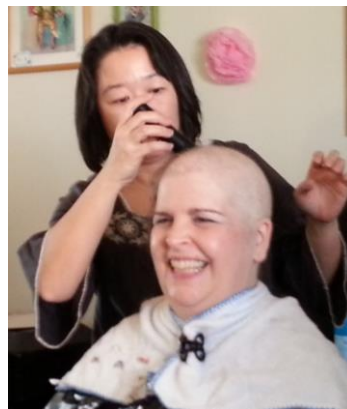
Health Update

I started chemotherapy on February 20, as mentioned in my last letter. There was a leakage from my port of at least one of the chemo drugs, initially resulting in just a couple of additional days in the hospital. Though there was considerable swelling, I was released, with the doctors apparently thinking all would be fine. However, within just a few days I was back in the hospital for what would become almost a month-long stay. I was suffering from a burn-like condition that became quite severe and ended up covering an area larger than the size of my hand.

It has taken 3 full months for that area to completely heal, but I'm very thankful to finally be at that point. Chemo treatments have been resumed also. I have now finished 3 of the 6 treatments, and if all goes well, should be finished by sometime in July. Aside from the leakage burn, the side-effects were fairly minimal with the first treatment. However, with the past 2 treatments, the side-effects have been stronger, but each of the side-effects has also been fairly short-lived. God has blessed so much, and what I'm experiencing has been far less intense than what many people experience.



One of the side-effects I **did** experience with the first treatment though was the loss of much of my hair. With the support of many dear ladies from Yokosuka Baptist Church, we shaved off what remained, and I'm having lots of fun with hats, scarves, and even a wig some friends bought for me. I've also now lost most of my eyelashes and eyebrows, so I've had to learn a few new make-up tricks.



During my various stays in the hospital, the Lord has allowed me to give tracts to several ladies, and even to talk with a few of them about things of the Lord. Many of the other ladies were going through similar surgeries, and some were dealing with the same types of cancers. The Lord was especially able to use me to be an encouragement to one lady who is a fellow believer, during a particularly rough time. It was scriptures that I had begun memorizing as I sought comfort for my own struggles that the Lord used for her encouragement. Please pray that the Lord will use HIS word in the tracts received to speak to people's hearts.

The Lord has enabled me to return to some ministries. I've been able to teach and help with Sunday school a few times and help with translation. I have also once again started teaching Tuesday English classes and working in the church office, on the weeks that I'm not too affected by chemo.

Thank you so much for your support, your encouragement, and your prayers. Please pray for: **complete healing (if that is the Lord's will)**, **minimal side-effects** from the final 3 chemo treatments, **continuing opportunities to witness**, **continued provision of financial needs**, and **many more years of service here in Japan**. Please also pray for **special summer ministries here at YBC**—a special Japanese meeting, camps, and a church-wide retreat. May God continue to richly bless each of you for your burden for souls in the country of Japan.

In His Service, *Ethel*