

A Psalm of Hope

VERONICA WONG & PHYLLIS TOI,
SATURDAY 4.30PM SERVICE

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, **for you are with me** Psalm 23:4

**Doctor: I'm afraid I don't have good news for you.
Your mum has a large tumour in her lungs.
The cancer has spread to her brain.
It is at an advanced stage.**

I could no longer clearly hear what the doctor was saying. His words became a blur. My dad and I were both in utter shock and dismay. This was not something we had expected right after our happy year-end vacation in Korea. Mum had only experienced some breathlessness before and during the trip. Upon our return to Singapore, she promptly sought medical attention. No one was expecting to hear this devastating diagnosis - Stage 4 lung cancer. How can this be? Mum's not a smoker. She has always been healthy. Stage 4?

This can't be true. How long more do we have with her? Why, God?"

The past three months were intense and arduous as we had to race against time to complete a battery of scans, tests, read up a ton of materials, and make many key decisions regarding the treatment, finances, caregiving arrangements etc. Yet in the midst of the chaos, we are so thankful to God for leading us to a good medical team, and for bringing to us family, friends and pastoral staff who gave sound advice and encouragement, supported us in fervent prayers, as well as showed us practical love by making soup for my mum, and delivering it right to our door-step. When we didn't have the words and strength to pray, we knew that our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ were faithfully praying in solidarity with and for us.

After five cycles of treatment, we are so glad that both the lung and brain tumours have shrunk significantly in size, and my mum's condition has largely stabilised with the treatment given. The oncologists are optimistic of her progress as she continues with her maintenance treatments over the next two years. Praise God for His healing grace!

Looking back, we truly see the gracious hand of God in guiding us through all of these. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise to God. In the midst of our grief and fear, we believe that we are fully secure in the hope we have in Christ, and that we can trust in God's timing and plans for us. His peace and strength have sustained us, and His presence is continually with us.

One of the bible passages which a family friend encouraged my mum to meditate upon was Psalm 23 which gave her immense comfort and assurance especially when she underwent her treatments - that the Lord is her Shepherd, she shall not be in want, and she shall fear no evil. Indeed, the Lord has comforted her greatly with His rod and His staff in spite of the tremendous stress and slew of complex procedures and treatments she had to undergo in the past few months.

We have full confidence and faith that His abundant goodness and mercy shall follow her all the days of her life, and her destiny is certain in Christ.

Friends, as we now face a difficult time due to the Covid-19 crisis, may we be encouraged that Christ is our living hope; He is our Shepherd and we are not alone. Hang on to Him!



Ms Veronica Wong
(1st from right) and her
mother, Mdm Phyllis Toi
(2nd from right)

A prayer by my mum:

"Dear God

Thank You that I am never alone because You are always with me.

I am grateful that I belong to You, Jesus.

Thank You for a life of hope now and forever. Amen."