

## Walking Through Cancer

The facts: I was diagnosed with rectal cancer. I started 6-weeks radiation and chemotherapy, had a 7-hour operation and spent 2 days in the High Dependency Unit, I was 13 days in hospital. After 5-weeks I then started 12-weeks chemo. I have now finished treatment and there is no sign of cancer. Note: I was clear of cancer 2 years before – so do the test! The experience: Was amazing! From the beginning I had total peace, at my first appointment I told the surgeon cancer had a small ‘c’ and I was going to beat it. I said to God that if I had to go through it please not to waste it, use it. Of course I asked for healing, particularly that I might not need the operation, but I was happy to leave it to God. He could heal me at any stage, He could take me, or He could walk with me through it, which is what He did. I also wanted to be open and talk about it and deny the fear and mystique that cancer has acquired, it’s a malfunction of the body that occurs in this fallen world and God is far greater. The support from the church and friends has been wonderful and very encouraging from the very beginning. We very much appreciate the prayers, visits and yummy meals we have received, thank you. At the start God gave me a verse - Psalm 103:2 “Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits”. This verse just filled my mind, in the dark of the night, when things got a bit tough, just all the time. At other times in the night the Lord gave me new Psalms and I was just praising and praising, it was incredible. I just knew I was in His hands all the time. I am human and not perfect, and yes I grumbled in hospital about being given food I couldn’t eat. Then I was challenged by a lovely Christian lady in the next bed who said ‘I just eat what I can and leave the rest’. Another day when going in for treatment I felt a bit ‘blah’ and said so, another patient said ‘you’ve got to be cheerful’, he was far worse off than I. So there were times of feeling fed up and not so happy but I never felt depressed or despairing, I knew that God had it all in hand. This is all the more amazing because I have a history of depression. Before I started treatment God said to me that He was preparing me for a new ministry, I shared this with someone and they witnessed to it. That promise has been like an anchor through this time and I look forward with anticipation as to what He has in store!