

“God is good all the time.”

By Rei Seki

Vol.1

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul
and forget not all his benefits. (Psalm 103:1, 2)**



My wife Rei (51 years old 2017) was suddenly diagnosed with cancer on November 30th of last year, and she has been going through a lot of challenging days until today.

I have received many prayers and emails of encouragement from many people during this time. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart. We also received inquiries about my wife's condition, and we couldn't keep up with the large number of inquiries, so we decided to open a blog to report the situation to everyone. Then, the blog had an unexpected response, and the circle of prayers expanded, and we received encouragement from family and friends who were suffering from the same disease, as well as comments from a mother who was in the nursery school of our oldest son more than 20 years ago, and we were really surprised and grateful. It seems to be good a evangelism as a result. We thank the Lord from the bottom of our hearts and praise His name that He has given us this place of testimony, which is also His immeasurable plan.

My wife Rei's condition as of January 15. The diagnosis is stage 4, with primary lung adenocarcinoma and metastases to the lymph, left femur and right hip bone. The cancer in her lungs was surgically removed, her left femur was reinforced with titanium, and the tumor was removed with radiation therapy. Now she will start treatment (probably radiation) for the tumor on her right hip bone and medication with a new drug called a molecular target drug.

Shinji (Rei's Husband)

Rei, I am so thankful for being able to share this testimony. You had been running up the steps of the church and dancing the hula until the day before, but in the middle of the night, you suddenly had severe pain in the base of her foot. It was 2 a.m. on Nov. 30 when Rei, who is usually very strong in pain, was taken to the hospital's emergency room, saying it was not normal for her to be in that much pain.

Rei

It was really sudden. My life seemed to have changed a lot since that night when the pain hit me. I had been eating well, having good energy, and living a flying life up to that point. After the emergency room visit to the hospital, I wondered if I would come home with strong pain medication. So we got in the car and drove to the hospital without letting the kids know what was going on. It was a pitch-black night.



Shinji

The pain didn't go away even after four doses of morphine, and it was hard to see Rei-san in pain. The emergency room was crowded and we had to wait quite a while, can you tell us the time he gave us the results of the CT scan?

Rei:

When I think of Shinji-san, who went home in the morning to take the kids to school while worrying about my pain, I felt like you were carrying something big on your shoulders, and that's how much the pain I felt at that time made a big difference not only to me, but also to our family in the future. It was then that I heard the results from the CT scan. The Japanese doctor was concerned for me, but he told me clearly that the cause of my pain was a tumor found in the bone of my leg, which was probably malignant and had metastasized, and that I would normally have one year to live. When I was told this, all at once I thought about myself and my family's present, past, and future, as well as the church. And I couldn't help but feel God even more

because this current situation was so sudden. All I could think about was relying on God. God, what should I do? Help! That's what I was screaming in my mind.

Shinji:

When I got back to the hospital, you prayed with me after hearing the results from you. When we finished praying, Rei's face was truly filled with peace. It was the first time I'd ever seen her face in such a state of peace. I can only describe it as "overwhelming peace". The first thing she said was, "I'm going to be okay." And then she said, "From now on, let's be closer to those who are suffering and in pain." I felt as if Rei's way of life was shown to me. Honestly, I can't help but admire Rei's way of life.

Rei:

When you came back from dropping the kids off at school, It's not easily tell you what the doctor had told me. It felt like a long time when I had the courage to tell you, and it seemed like the moment was one of the best things I've ever seen in my life as husband and wife, facing each other



perfectly. Then you took my hand and prayed for me and said the words from the previous day's prayer meeting, Jesus answered. "This man has not sinned, nor are his parents. For the work of God has been manifested in this man. (John 9:3) When he prayed to me, "That the works of God may be manifested in him, " I felt that word linger in my heart as it seeped through my body. And that Word spread through me and gave me a warm, quiet, and strong peace. So that peace made me say, "I'm okay." And because I received this illness, I wanted to live a life that would please God more and more with the God who is with me.

Shinji:

That's the power of the Word. Jesus said to his disciples at the Last Supper, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."(John 14:27), we really know what that means. We may be anxious, but Jesus is at peace in this moment. I know that Rei was wrapped up in that peace of Jesus and I was wrapped up in the same peace.

I never dreamed that you would end up in the hospital for the next three weeks. During that time, you went through many tests, and while there was a chance that it might be benign, we finally found out that the lung cancer was primary and had spread to my bones and lymph nodes. How did you feel when you found out?

Rei:

One of the words I received repeatedly while in the hospital was Isaiah 41:10. "do not fear, for I am with you do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Fear not. The God who tells me to falter, I thought, knows everything about me. He knew what was going on in my body as I was cheerfully running up the steps of the church, driving around and flying from place to place, and I was confused about what was happening to me when the pain suddenly hit me one day and I walk a step in that moment. And God, who told me that the work of God was to be manifested in this man, knows everything I have been and will be, the pain and the fear and the sorrow, because Jesus, who was God, became a man and was born. Because Jesus became a man and was born on this earth and experienced more than what I am experiencing now in his life and on the cross (Philippians 2:6-8). I am so thankful that I received this disease and that Jesus was born as a man. Because not one of my fears, not one bit of pain, not one bit of tears will be not understood or overlooked by God. That's how I am known to Jesus. A strange thing happened to me while I was in the hospital. As I lay there in pain, someone would gently rub my feet. When I opened my eyes, there was no one there. Someone was tapping on my shoulder. But there is no one. It is Jesus who comforts me. I was weak in mind and body, and I was asking God for help, and I knew. Jesus is the Comforter (II Corinthians 1:4, 5). Jesus, the Comforter, has given me peace within my heart. This peace is Jesus himself. So no words that shook my life or my existence were attached to my heart and it did not stay as it passed. Yes! Once, a warm ~ hand was placed on my operated foot and I said, "Jesus!" And then I opened my eyes and it was you.

Shinji:

That's right, I remember Rei saying, "The stickers don't stick" Then the words of Psalm 32:10 were presented to me. It said, "The wicked have much heartache; they have many sorrows in their hearts. But to those who trust in the Lord, grace surrounds them." It's just like being coated

with grace. This time, the theme for both of us was “The Lord is good God is good all the time” I really believe that with all my heart. Having cancer or not having cancer is a big deal, but the fact that “God is with us” is much bigger than that. We are surrounded by the overwhelming presence and peace of God first, and we ask ourselves, “ Why? Why?” The question of “what is the best way to do this?” does not come up. There is no room for it to come up. “God is with us” that’s the answer to everything. And it turns out that this answer is good enough for me. But even Rei-san is sad at times, right? It’s not that she has a heart of steel by any means. You shed tears in pain, you couldn’t walk as soon as you were admitted to the hospital, you couldn’t move from your bed for three weeks, you had two surgeries within three weeks even though you’ve never had surgery before, and you learned from the doctor that you had cancer and that you had a limited time to live... What was in your mind?



Rei:

During my three weeks in the hospital, there were several times when I cried. When I first heard the cancer diagnosis and the time of my life. Then when they took the tumor out for tests and it hurt too much. And when I learned that my bones were so weak from

the tumor that they could have been broken in a heartbeat, and that I would have to have surgery to reinforce my leg. I didn’t want to have the surgery if possible. I wished I could somehow live without the reinforcement. But the doctor’s answer was that if I didn’t have a stake implanted in my foot to reinforce it, it would be worse. When there was no one else in the room and I was alone, I cried my heart out before God. I had tears in my eyes. There were no words to express my sorrow .But after I cried for a while, the doctor said the word “stake” came to me. That word” overlapped with the stake driven into the palms of Jesus hands on the cross. The stake that Jesus drove into my hands is the “stake” for the forgiveness of my sins and my eternal life, that is the “stake” for my “death” on the cross. But the “stake” I receive is the “stake” that protects me and sustains my life. When I thought about it, I decided to take this stake, to be grateful for it, and to have the surgery. And the next day, I signed the consent form to have the surgery. Each time I learned of the cancer announcement and how much time I had to live, I would say to God, “Help me!” I screamed. I cried from my heart before God. My heart was shaken. But every time I did, I tried to turn my heart to God. I tried to compare my path to the

path that Jesus walked. I tried to remember His Word. And in that moment I received peace. That peace overcame the waves in my heart. I still attribute this to the prayers of all of you who have prayed for me, not from me, but for me. I am so grateful to all of you who prayed and prayed and that the invisible hand of prayer drove me towards peace.

Shinji:

The doctor doesn't keep everything under wraps and tells it like it is. Especially in oncology, they accumulate scientific data and work out numbers from it. They give you numbers like the average survival time and the percentage of chance of cure, but they always say at the end, "But we don't know for sure." When I hear that line, I feel very peaceful. Because I can clearly see that life belongs to God. When you see the limitations of man, you see the opposite, you see the omnipotence of God. Really life is God's domain, life is God's.

Rei:

Really, life is God's, isn't it? I have prayed so many times, "I give myself to you, God." I have prayed many times, "give myself to you, God." I have also said, "God, this life of mine belongs to you. I give this life to you." But this time, when I was put in front of [life as time, the time of life], I felt as if I was blocked by a big wall. I was upset. For a moment, the time I spent with my husband and my children turned grey. I was suffering. But with my own hands, I could not change the time of life. During that time, my friend turned my eyes to God's creations. The things I can see. The sky, sun, sunset, stars, moon, and the flowers and birds of Hawaii, all of His creation seemed to be shining. In that moment, I realized my life is truly God's. My life has time and seasons, and I live each day like it's a thousand days created by God who even controls time. In that time, I surpassed life as time and the time of life, and received life from God once again, and also received peace. Life is in God's hands!

Shinji:

"Life as time" really made me think about it. And "life beyond life's time" is exactly what you mean by "eternal life" At the end of the year, it was a miracle that we were able to attend the Equipper Conference in Los Angeles. The theme of the conference was "Freedom in Christ" So when I asked you, "What is freedom for you, Rei?" The answer I got when I asked you was so memorable.

Rei:

When my kids found out I had cancer, they told me that they were planning a conference as a family trip at the end of the year and that they would definitely be taking their mom with them! It was a great comfort and strength. And it gave me hope and purpose. The next day after my surgery, I went into rehab with a lot of motivation. My physical therapist praised me repeatedly saying “You are strong!” and I laughed as I forgot the distance I was going back and moved forward too much. But after my leg surgery and my second lung surgery, I was in so much pain that I gave up on the idea of getting on a plane and traveling to LA because it was too painful. But even then, I heard a voice say, “Stand women!” and God said to me, Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” (John 11:40), and when I stood in faith in His Word, He opened the way for me to get on a plane and cross the sea.



Four Doctors said to me, “your case, go! No matter what you eat or do. For example, your post-op progress is so good that you could get on a plane tomorrow!” With the prayers of my family, my church, and many others, I was able to travel to L.A. two weeks after my surgery on the wings of God. I spent 6 days and 5 nights at a conference, which was well organized, well prayed for, and well prepared to receive me. The theme of the conference was “freedom in the Holy Spirit” The messenger teachers gave me preparation to live in the future through their words, and I was given joy by the power of praise. And when Shinji asked, “What is freedom for you?” When he asked me, I answered immediately. “I am not living the “sick me” now, I am living the “me!” That’s my freedom! I have been immersed in the Word and praise, and I have been free from sickness, even when there is sickness. And even when there is time in life, I got my freedom from it!

Shinji:

This event has made our family bond even stronger, and it was a big shock for our four children, but it was a blessing to see them all truly express their love for Mom. You aren't able to attend

our eldest son's college graduation, but we all cried when he came to the hospital room with a shoulder full of Lei as a gift. Not only did she cry, but all the kids cried too. The children were really kind and cared for Mom, and they understood how great our Mom was and were thankful.

Rei:

I really gave Shinji-san a great deal of concern, for the children, my family, the church and everyone around me. I think my children have taken the situation of my body well and are still persevering with it. And they are turning their thoughts from patience to gentle labor of love, which brings tears to my eyes. Thank you so much, I am so grateful. I'm also thankful for the gestures I make when I walk, putting their arms out to let me grab onto. Even though I wasn't able to go to my oldest son's college graduation, he gave me a special graduation heroic moment. It is a memory that will last a lifetime. God was definitely in that hospital room. I will continue to walk with my family and the family of God, where God is right in the middle, taking in every moment of joy, fun, and sadness. While cherishing the presence of each other.

Supplementary notes:

We returned safely to Hawaii from a conference in Los Angeles. A few days later, I suddenly began to experience pain in my right hip bone area opposite the left side of my surgery. The pain became unbearable and I went to the emergency room. The rehabilitation of my left leg was progressing and my lung was recovering well after the stitches were removed. The pain meant that the tumor was starting to affect me, which must have been bad news.

But in the midst of this pain, Rei said, "God is amazing! God is beautiful!" I began to praise him. "Why...?" I thought, it means, if this pain had come before she went to Los Angeles, she couldn't



have been able to participate. It's God's perfect plan for the pain at this time, and God's time is truly beautiful. But the next night after she returned home from the hospital, Rei's heart sank. She was afraid of the repeated pain and trials. But Rei said, "My heart was depressed. My heart became depressed, and when I looked

down, God was there." When we look up to the Lord, of course, but if we look down, He is there too. Psalm 139:8, "If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I set up a bed in hell, you are there". Those words of the Lord came to mind. Finally, Rei was presented with a word a few days ago. "Today I will bear witness to you in heaven and on earth. I will put life and death, blessing and curse, before you, and you shall choose life." (Deuteronomy 30:19) The Lord of Life said, "Choose life", and Rei chose life. Now the second stage of the treatment process begins. On the days of joy and sorrow, on the days when you look up to the Lord and on the days when you are depressed, the Lord is with you at all times. Please pour out your heart's cry to that Lord always. When you need help, "Help!" And cry out like a rye. That one foot with the Lord is a new foot and that one breath is a new breath. The Lord always surrounds us with new grace and life. So today we sing to Him a "new song!" Come on! Let's start singing! Hallelujah! I'm writing about my days so far on my blog.

Please check it out: <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/sanwa5510459> (in only Japanese word)

Translate by Hikaru Seki