

Talking to Mountains

By Tamara Roberts - May 2024



*"... and nothing
will be impossible
for you."*

- Matthew 17:20b

"Congratulations!" My oncologist grinned as she breezed into the exam room handing me the pathology report.

"So, I read the report right. The cancer is gone!" I laughed and shook my head. "I knew it!"

Her voice lilted, "With a tumor as large as yours, it's highly unusual for the treatment to kill all the cancer cells and eliminate them all."

I grinned, "Well, I told all mutated or cancerous cells to go in the name of Jesus, and they did." She reminded me that we still had to complete the protocol medically. God works through medicine. We'll hit it from every angle.

About a week later, I had a similar conversation with my oncology surgeon. "It was gone. I got in there and there was nothing. Nothing!" Her voice reflected joy and wonder. "Not one cell. The cancer was gone." I had the same answer.

At the time of my diagnosis, I clearly understood God had a plan to turn it to good. Memories of friends and family who went to heaven for their healing yet used every opportunity to minister set an example just like those who were healed on earth.

continued

No matter what, I planned to glorify God every step I took.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, "... *If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*" After purchasing a jar of teeny mustard seeds, I thought, *surely, God gave me more faith than that. Removing mutated cells should be easy.*

I wasn't alone. In God's family, we never are. Not only did people from our church call on the Great Physician, they beefed up our family's courage and faith with cards, texts, food, flowers, and mighty prayers. Prayer warriors from all over the world interceded on our behalf and asked for prayer from members of the kingdom whom I may never meet this side of heaven. Prayer changes everything.

I refused to speak the words, "I have cancer." I refused to have it. I just said I was being treated for it. We should take the words in Proverbs 18:10 seriously. "*What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words.*" (GNT) In Matthew 12:36 when Jesus said we would be *judged by every idle word we speak*, He meant it. God spoke creation into existence. Since we are created in His image, our words have much more power than we understand.

My good friend gave me a mug that said, "Cancer, you picked on the wrong girl." She was right. I continue to follow all the researched and planned treatments and tools God has given through medicine as well as the plans of Jehovah Raphe in scripture.

We've had many families in our church who have also been touched by a mountainous situation. Well, it's messed with the wrong people. We're going on attack, following Christ's example, speaking to our mountains, celebrating when they move, and using the whole journey to glorify God. I met with some amazing people who are forming a ministry to people overcoming cancer. Most all in the group have seen their diagnosis as an opportunity to minister to others. There were no whiners, only empowered, energized winners. By sharing the gospel to gifting and uplifting, let's all comfort and encourage those we meet in and out of any daunting diagnosis. Let's all speak to any mountain that needs to be moved out of the way of God's plans. Let's pray God's power and will over every situation.

Prayer: *Jehovah Raphe, Loving Father, we praise You for your love and healing. Help us be encouragers to all who have a mountain that needs to move. May we bring You glory and honor every day. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

Below are some scriptures to read and share in times of affliction.

Psalm 103:2-5: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*"

Psalms 107:20: "*He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destruction.*"

Psalm 30:2: "*Lord my God, I called to You for help, and You healed me.*"

Psalm 41:3: "*The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.*"

James 5:14-16: "*Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*"

Isaiah 53:5: "*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*"

Exodus 23:25: "*Worship the Lord your God, and His blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,*"

1 Peter 2:24: "*'He Himself bore our sins' in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.*"

Mark 16:16-18: "*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*"

Pray for our Church Family

Cross Church Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of April 29, 2024: Robert Atwell, Bill Bell, Judy Bradford, Sharon Booker, Anita Chapman, Andrea Clark Vargas, Janie Groce, Brenda Harrison, Myrle Johnson, Jackie Mapston, Vern Myers, Beverly Nelson, Pat Shivers, and Dennis Smith. **Sympathy to the families of:** James Perry, (Greg's dad), Brother of Glenda Sobel, Tammy Womack (Jason's dad), Audley Andrew "Andy" Mercer (Karel Stewart's dad), Bobby Graves (Dick Graves and Sharon Booker's brother), Evalyn Lochridge, Bonnie Jury, Thelma Welch, Phil Slaughter, James Johnson (JoAnn's husband) and Suellen Swank (Bill & Barbara's daughter). **Continued Needs:** Thomas Albaugh, Javier Alvarez, David Antwiler, Greg Bell, Jeremy Berveiler, Sharon Booker, Charles Bourne, Sr., Nikki Bowmer, Jackie Bozeman, Connie Bushor, Wedia Caldwell, Maddox Carmean, Russell Chapman, Sherry Christensen, Sam Cochran, Jack Combs, Gerald Daniel, Joy Davis, Mike Doyle, Shari Emmons, Summer Fernihough, Teresa Filewood, Gary Fuller, Will Gopffarth, Betty Gresham, Kay Hamelwright, Michael Hamelwright, Dean Hancock, Jake Jacob, Beth Kelley, Carl Langley, Deanna Maynord, Alan Moody, Mark Moses, Beverly Nelson, Aaron Parrill, Becky Pipkin, Pete Pipkin, Rob Puskas, Tammy Roberts, John Seely, Lisa Shroyer, Kathy Stricklin, Phillip Smith, Glenda Sobel, Arnold Sumrall, John Tankersley, Mikki Thiele, Leland Thomas, Mike Tidmore, Tyler Whitten, Mike Williams, and Thomas Wittner.

Pray for Ministries of Both Campuses

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ People to pray (by name) for friends, family & co-workers who are lost.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Our community as we communicate our "Love Extended."

☞ Wisdom for staff as we fine tune plans for the summer.

Stuart Pendell, NFW Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

✝ Our Midweek classes.

✝ Site preparation of the new modular building. Please pray for favor with the City of Fort Worth and safety for all the workers involved.

Missions Ministry requests prayer for:

➔ Texas Baptist Men, Send, and other volunteers & missionaries who are in & around Ukraine.

➔ Local mission partners, I Can Still Shine, Refresh (BISD) & CAN (Cornerstone Assistance Network).

➔ God's direction for other mission opportunities.

➔ God to provide opportunities for ministry as a result of the food pantry. God's blessing on those who donate.

Michael Slater, Dir. of Communications requests prayer for:

⇒ Equipment to work well as we offer online services.

Jody Hayes, Wellness Center, Men's Ministry & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

• God to arrange opportunities to share the love of Christ in the Wellness Center.

Daniel Simmons, HS Minister requests prayer for:

☞ Students to be disciplined and focused on Christ.

GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

☺ Reaching Single Adults in our community.

☺ Our DivorceCare Support Group as we minister to individuals in recovery.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

♥ Our Women to form lasting friendships in the Lord.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Angel Land Director & Preschool Ministry, Natalie Goodman-Cross Church Children's Ministry & Russell Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Eight Good News Clubs in Birdville elementary schools.

🚲 Our preparations for Summer Camp and VBS.

Dave Bryant, Associate Pastor, Couples & Next Steps requests prayer for:

☞ Our new members to easily get involved in a BFG and a place of service.

☞ BFGs to grow deeper in their intimacy with the Lord, care for the needs in their class, and find creative ways to extend love in the community.

☞ ReEngage Marriage Ministry which starts in the Fall on Wednesdays. May God prepare the leadership for this great ministry

Danny Koonce, Worship Pastor requests prayer for:..

👂 Our choirs to remain healthy.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
mandi@ccdfw.org

Cross Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

May 2—Nat'l Day of Prayer, 9 a.m., NRH City Offices.
May 3—Women's Ministry to Waco.
May 4—Dad 'n' Lad to Pure Adventure.
May 5—High School Senior Recognition and Lunch.
May 6—NFW Mom to Mom.
May 8—Senior-led LIVE.
May 11—Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m. in FH.
May 12—Mothers Day! Muffins with Mom at the S-Couch.
Family Dedications. New Members Classes. Deadline to register and pay for Kids Night Out.
May 13—NRH Mom to Mom.
May 15—Pastors Summer Bible Study on Romans begins in Room 108 at 6:30 p.m. Also, "Hope in the Journey," Cancer Encouragement Group begins at 6:30 in room 200.
May 17—Kids Night Out Friday Night Childcare.
May 19—Lord's Supper in AM Services. Students Camper & Parent Meeting. Deacon Meeting.
May 22—Mandatory VBS Meeting, KIDZone at 5:30 p.m.
May 23—Last day of School!
May 24—BISD Graduations.
May 26—Baptism Sunday. Singles Pot Luck Lunch in FH at noon.
May 27—Memorial Day.
May 28—NISD Graduations.
May 31—Student BFG Leaders Appreciation.
May 31-June 8—Latvia Mission Trip.

AcademyHomeSchoolChoir
Angel Land Preschool
Celebrate Recovery
Children's Choir
Connect Classes
Cross Church Campus
Divorce Care
ESL Program
Fine Arts Academy
G.A.L.S. Media Group
GPS (Singles) Ministry
Homebound Ministry
KID's Beach Clubs
Library Ministry
Men's Bible Study
Men's Ministry
Pastor's Prayer Team
Senior Adult Ministry
Student Choir
Students Ministry
Wednesday WILD
Women's Ministry
WOW (Widows of Worth)

Adopt-A-School
BSF Groups
Child Care Ministry
Children's Ministry
Couples Ministry
Discipleship Groups
Divorce Care for Kids
Financial Peace Univ.
Food Pantry
Good News Club
GriefShare Ministry
KID Worship
Ladies Prayer Group
Media Ministry
Missions Ministry
Music Ministry
Preschool Ministry
Spanish Speaking Ministry
Students Hang Time
Upward Basketball
Wellness Center Ministry
Women's Step Study
Young Singles 20s