

# INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF MILITARY MINISTRIES THE ALVERSONS

MINISTERING TO OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL & THEIR FAMILIES



Fall 2024

Dear Prayer Partner:

This correspondence will be a little different than our usual prayer letters. Most of our prayer partners and supporters know by now, but since our summer letter went out just a few days before my cancer diagnosis, and some may not do social media, perhaps you have not heard. We are running a little late with this letter but you will understand more as you continue reading.

On August 27 I was diagnosed with Esophageal cancer. For several months I had been having a difficulty swallowing and an Endoscopy on August 22 revealed that there was a tumor at the bottom of my esophagus. It was biopsied and sent off to Pathology to be analyzed. It came back with a malignant diagnosis. Of course, this changed the entire direction of our lives for the time-being. Immediately the doctor told me what was in store for the next several months and informed me that I should clear my traveling schedule at least for the rest of the calendar year, because of the rigid chemo and radiation treatment involved; which I reluctantly did. It grieved me not to be able to fulfill mission conference commitments, but the pastors and churches have been most understanding and very gracious regarding the matter. One church in North Carolina kindly sent the love offering they would have given in the meeting.

The effects of the chemo and radiation treatments have been very difficult. The chemo, which is administered once a week on Mondays, leaves me weak as it often results in a low blood hemoglobin. I take radiation each day Monday through Friday and it is targeted to attack the cancer area directly. Its effects are very painful, especially when I eat and try to swallow food and drink. The doctors and nurses tell me that I must consume a minimum of 2000 calories each day to maintain a proper weight, as the cancer gobbles up calories. Up until a few months ago, I never thought that could be a problem, Amen?! However, it has proven to be most difficult. I am scheduled to have my last chemotherapy treatment on November 25 and my last radiation just after Thanksgiving. Then, there will be PET scans, CT scans, x-rays, continued labs, etc. to determine what other (if any) treatments will be needed.

I mention all of this to ask for special prayer. When God told King Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was going to die, the king humbly sought God in prayer. Whereupon, God told the prophet Isaiah to take a *lump of figs* and lay it upon the boil and God would heal him and give him fifteen more years to live (Isaiah 38). In other words, Hezekiah was to use the medical technology of his day and God would work the miracle of healing. This is what we feel we are doing, using the medical knowledge available and trusting God to do the rest, the work of healing. Our prayer request is that God would use these treatments to shrink the tumor and totally eradicate the cancer so I will not have to have this most difficult surgery that would follow, should the treatments not be successful.

Of course, this was not the diagnosis we were expecting back in August and certainly not the road we would have chosen, BUT GOD was not taken by surprise and we KNOW that He works all things "after the counsel of His own Will" (Ephesians 1:11). We fully trust Him through it all. Several pastors have already booked us for 2025 (one called just this morning and said that he had me down for the coming year, so I had to beat this). Whatever God has for us, we know He will meet our needs and be glorified in and through it all. We've had to take a little *detour* and we are asking God (and looking for opportunities) to share the Gospel with those He puts in our path during this part of the journey. We are confident that He will make every provision, just like He said He would do.

One other major health prayer-request is for Joyce. With the stress that the cancer diagnosis brought on, Joyce has come down with Shingles. It has been most painful for her and she is still struggling with it. Please pray that God will touch her and heal her completely.

Joyce and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. God is so very good to us and we praise Him for His bountiful blessings throughout the year. We are grateful for our *country, church, companion, children, conversion*, even our *conflicts*, and most of all, for our *Christ*, Who makes all of these other blessings possible (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Please join us in fervent prayer that we will be the servants that will please Him through it all. Once again, we want to thank our supporting churches and prayer warriors, without which we could not continue in this great work of Military Missions. Please pray that this *detour* will be brief. We love you all and remain...

In Christ's Service,

*Jeff & Joyce Alverson*  
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