

One morning while singing a praise song at church with Brother Tom on my mind, a small still voice said "Honor your brother...he has a story!"

So, for you Tom, my dear sweet brother:

Tom has always been a good man, brother, father, husband, friend. He is a humble, selfless, kind strong man and loved by many.

Life has a way of throwing zingers and Tom got a zinger alright. He got a horrible, rare, ravaging, consuming, fight for your life cancer. But Tom is a fighter and he wanted to live to continue to take care of his family and friends.

After a couple of years of chemo and various forms of treatment, the cancer was closing in. His body was weak, with pain, nausea and gangrene. Death was at his door and he was ready to go home to heaven. In the midst of this, a man in white who he had never seen before was standing next to his bed. Tom said "I am dying." The man said "Don't worry Tom, I will take care of you." When he left, all his pain and nausea was gone. After the doctors ran additional tests, they decided the MRI was incorrect. No gangrene!

God sent a Guardian Angel to take care of Tom. In Hebrews 1:14 it says "Angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation."

At that moment, Tom got his miracle! There was a spiritual change in Tom. The presence of God was evident. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the New is Here!"

Tom fell in love with the God who saved him and his journey with God began. He truly knew God was with him always.

He came home free of cancer but was told get his life in order, enjoy your grandkids and family because it was incurable and would return.

With a tired body but a new heart, he came home with a mission to honor God by sharing his testimony with all his friends and family. He wanted to bring the joy and salvation he experienced to the world around him. He found out that he didn't have to DO anything. God would work through him by being the Tom we all knew and loved. Tom was still Tom, kind, caring, and generous but now he had God's spirit in him and was working **through** him.

Until the end Tom loved spending much of his time sharing Christ with his friends and family. He did that through loving on his family, friends and neighbors. He took time to talk to anyone who came to visit. He encouraged others, helping those in need whether it be a load of hay, wood or maybe a broken furnace His selfless ministry was always putting others first.

As time progressed and his symptoms intensified, more pain medications were required to provide comfort. However, Tom did not waiver. He continued to lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

When Tom talked to you, you felt like you were the most important person in the world. People were drawn to him. He showed them love, hugged them, and then shared Jesus with them. What's so amazing is that through those encounters, relationships were healed, restoration and forgiveness happened. This is what God was doing through Tom.

Tom, you are a walking miracle. You got your miracle, and along with that, so many others have gotten theirs. It may not be the miracle that You or anyone else was hoping for, but it is God using it for your redemption, your salvation, and God's glory.

As I watched you Tom, with tears in my eyes, I saw a man fighting the pain, reaching out to love someone, shaking their hand, giving them a huge bear hug and then encouraging them to stop, enjoy the life God gave them and says "How's your relationship with God? He loves You!"

Our lives are forever changed by your testimony loving God throughout this journey, never doubting, never discouraged, faithful to the end.

As Tom entered the gates of Heaven, with open arms....God said

"Well Done, my good and faithful servant. Welcome Home!"

I love you, Tom!

Your favorite sister (George's)

Sony