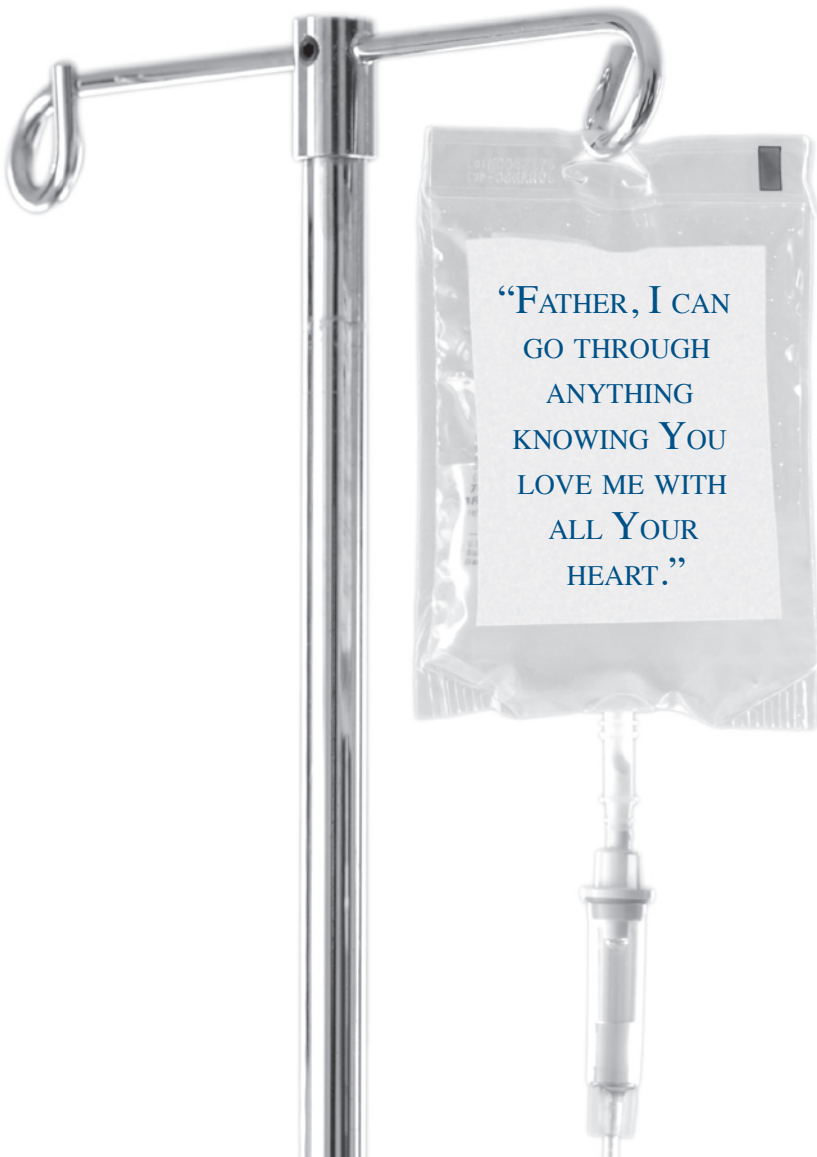


“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10



ENDURANCE



On December 10th, 2008, I awoke with unusual radiating pain in my abdomen and quickly asked Father to remove it. He didn't. Believing that God would heal me like He always has, I went on to work despite the pain.

When I arrived at my office, the pain increased. I shut the door and lay down on the floor. I asked, "Father, what is happening?"

He answered, "Greg, all you need to know at this time is that I love you with all My heart."

"Father, I can go through anything knowing you love me with all Your heart." I replied.

Several minutes later, I got up and could hardly walk. As I shuffled into the hall, Connie asked what was wrong. I told her that I thought I had food poisoning and asked her to take me to see Dr. Keller, our family doctor and friend for over 30 years.

We cancelled our counseling appointments, and off we went. On the way, Connie called Dr. Keller's office where his nurse directed Connie to take me straight to the hospital.

In the emergency room, the doctor diagnosed me with appendicitis. He informed me that if my appendix

Endurance...

hadn't ruptured, I'd probably be out of the hospital in 24-36 hours. If it had ruptured, it would be more serious, and my stay in the hospital could be much longer.

My appendix had ruptured, and I spent the next 10 days in the hospital. The doctors, nurses and hospital staff were great, but my time there was not enjoyable. Over the course of my life, I played 22 years of orga-

is but a very gracious passageway into heaven for a believer.

God used this unusual experience in a unique way to answer some of my prayers. During my sickness, intimacy with Father completely satisfied my soul. He also answered some of my questions, gave me a warning about my habitual prideful attitude (e.g. "I do all things for Him with His help, instead of 'I can do all things through Christ.'"), gave me specific instructions as to what He wants me to do with the rest of my life on earth, and took me into a deeper experience of His wonderful love.

When I was discharged from the hospital, my surgeon told me that there was a chance that I could develop an abscess. If this happened, it would mean spending more time back in the hospital.

Over a week later, with my strength returning, I walked in pride again. The Spirit convicted me, and I halfway repented. Then, the appendicitis symptoms began to return to my lower abdomen. I thought that this must be an abscess. Instantly, with the words of old hymn I SURRENDER ALL going through my head, I surrendered all my pride.

Not wanting to go back to the hospital, I spent a day and a half begging Father to heal me and take the pain away. But the pain only increased.

On doctor's orders, I headed back to the hospital to get a CAT scan along with the other needed blood tests and x-rays. Amazingly, as I was walking from the emergency room to get the CAT scan, the pain began to recede. The results of the CAT scan showed nothing abnormal. As I walked out of the hospital into the parking lot, the pain was completely gone and my strength began to return. God had healed me.

Father now has my complete attention. I am back to finish the good works that He has "prepared before-

“FATHER now has MY COMPLETE ATTENTION. I am BACK to FINISH the GOOD WORKS that HE has ‘PREPARED BEFOREHAND, that I SHOULD WALK in.’ ”

nized football including 12 years in the NFL. In those years, I had many painful experiences, but nothing like a ruptured appendix. The 10 days surrounding my surgery were the most painful ones of my life.

I know how to explain most of my experience during those 10 days, but one thing remains difficult to describe. The best I can depict it is to say that I experienced death. It wasn't delusional, but it may have been a drug-induced hallucination. Whatever the means, it was reality to me.

The physical pain leading to this experience was extreme, but yet I had no fear in and of the pain or death. In my spiritual body, I had all my senses. I could see and hear. I not only felt death, but I also tasted and smelled it. I was in perfect peace; secure; safe. The Lord clearly showed me that physical death

FATHER FANATIC

Thinking about the goodness of the heavenly Father makes me want to burst forth in praise, with all the intensity of football fanatics who yell when their team wins the Super Bowl in the last seconds of the game. David experienced this enthusiasm when he cried out, "O taste and see

that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" It is believed that Psalm 150 was used on festival occasions when crowds of people gathered to worship together in praise and thanksgiving. This is just the Psalm needed when reflecting on Father's good-

ness. "Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with musical instruments and dancing. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."

hand, that I should walk in," with Connie, my sweetheart of 40 years, my 4 sons and daughters, and 10, soon to be 11, grandchildren, CFT staff and ministry investors.

Doing the good works that Father has prepared beforehand for me to do is critical. Doing the good works the way God wants them done is even more important. My pride has frequently tripped me up in this area. When I take the initiative and attempt to do Father's good works the way I think they should be done, my effort is no longer good works, but worthless "Christian" religious works done in the name of Jesus with His "help".

So I'm back on the track. Praise the Lord. After a six week hiatus, I'm doing the good works God has prepared beforehand by abiding in Christ, walking after the Spirit, enjoying His fruit, enduring hardship, knowing a little more of the fellowship of his sufferings, laying "aside the sin which so easily entangles me, and running with endurance the race that He has set before me."

Thank you for all your prayers. God does hear, and He does answer. If we can pray for you, please give us a call, drop us a note or e-mail us. As always, we would deeply appreciate you praying for us as our Father leads you.

Love ya,



Greg Brezina

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1, 2a



Advanced DISCIPLESHIP

Christian Families Today trains believers in the Exchanged Life discipleship counseling process of how to disciple others biblically. Our Advanced Discipleship Training program is presented in a year-long format that meets one night a week for 10 months and an intensive program that meets five days a week for 8 weeks. If you are interested in attending the ADT program, please let us know.

March 2, 2009
to April 24, 2009

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770-502-8050

Christian *Couples'* Seminar

Taught by Greg and Connie Brezina, this marriage enrichment seminar shares the basic biblical principles for having a life-long, joy-filled marriage.

March 27-28, 2009

Orchard Hills Church
678-854-9180

GROWinGRACE Seminar

CFT Staff teach this seminar which is an expanded teaching of Romans 5-8. This seminar teaches believers their identity in Christ and how one can experience Christ's abundant life daily.

February 27-28, 2009

CFT Office - Newnan, GA
770-502-8050

April 24-25, 2009

CFT Office - Newnan, GA
770-502-8050

For a complete and updated listing of seminars, please check our website at www.ChristianFamiliesToday.org

The pricing and location of these seminars depend on the hosting group; therefore, to find out about a particular seminar you must contact the person in charge of the seminar with the information provided. If your church or group is interested in hosting a CFT seminar or having someone speak at your church event or service, please contact us.

RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE

On December 9th the Newnan/Coweta County Chamber of Commerce helped us celebrate the opening of our new family counseling and training center in Newnan, Georgia, with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by an open house.

We are excited about the new facility that God has provided through the generosity of many of our supporters. It is designed to be a welcoming and safe place conducive to building biblically healthy lives and families.

Our new center houses five coaching and counseling offices; a family conference room; an educational center with the latest audio-visual technology that will seat 80 attendees for seminars and workshops; a children's counseling center with wet paint, sand box, anger management, and play areas; an administrative office; a break room/serving area; a reception office with a waiting room; and room to expand when needed.



Your comments and questions are welcome: CFT@CFTministry.org | www.ChristianFamiliesToday.org | 770-502-8050

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