

From: Bob and Carol Givens <bob.givens@sim.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 3:56 PM
To: info@niemonds.org
Subject: Navigating an uncertain journey before us.

Bob's Brain Cancer

The Lord meets us along the journey



A Journey of Faith and Trust: An Update from Bob and Carol Givens

June, 2026

We were surprised but not the Lord.

Dear Friends and Family,

No one can ever fully prepare for the news we recently received. Following a month-long battle with a painful shingles ear infection, some unusual symptoms led to the discovery of a brain tumor. On May 11, a Central Nervous System (CNS) Lymphoma tumor was removed from my skull. The pathology report brought a shocking diagnosis: CNS B-cell Lymphoma, a fast-growing cancer.

From surgery through rehab, I am finally back home. Today, June 8, we had our first oncology appointment to determine our next steps. While we still find ourselves with many more questions than answers, we are officially moving forward with a treatment plan.

Processing the Counsel of Friends

Through it all, so many of you have surrounded us with prayers, love, and encouragement. Some have offered specific ways we should pray, while others have

shared alternative treatments to try. Please know that we receive every single suggestion as a genuine expression of your deep love and care for us.

For Carol and me, trusting God's higher ways takes an immense amount of faith. We do not feel peace in demanding a specific outcome from the Creator of the universe. Instead, we choose to surrender to His sovereignty, finding the peace that passes all human understanding. We know God is completely capable of healing, but we choose to trust His timing and His ways, which are infinitely higher than our own.

The Heart of Our Faith

Our hearts are resting on two powerful passages of Scripture right now:

- **An "Even If" Faith:** In Daniel 3:17-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego boldly declared that God was able to save them from the fiery furnace, *"But even if he does not,"* they would still trust Him. We know God can heal me. But even if He chooses a different path, He is still good, and we will still trust Him.
- **Surrender in the Garden:** In Luke 22:42, Jesus faced the cross and prayed, *"Not my will, but Yours be done."* If Jesus prayed those words, that is the exact pattern I want to follow.

Our prayer is not for a specific medical outcome, but for the strength to finish my race well, whenever and however that may be. Echoing the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, my ultimate goal is to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith intact. Like Paul, who lived with a "thorn in the flesh," we are holding onto the promise: *"My grace is sufficient for you."* We are asking God for that grace every single day.

Walking Forward Together

Carol and I are choosing this path of profound peace. We are so incredibly thankful for your love, presence, and care. Please continue to pray for us during this trial. We know we are not alone; our eyes are fixed on the One walking this heavy road right alongside us.

On Sunday, May 31, I was blessed to share my testimony in person with our church family. If you would like to watch it, you can find the [video link here](#) (my testimony begins at the **57:42** mark).

With all our love and gratitude,

Bob and Carol

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." — **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)***

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