

My Efforts – An Example of God’s Encouragement

By Charles (Chuck) Maack – Prostate Cancer Patient/Advocate/Activist/Mentor

The more I look back at the papers I have authored or compiled over the years since my prostate cancer returned in 1996 following earlier diagnosis in November 1992 followed by obviously failed surgical removal and salvage radiation, I continue to question how I could have accumulated the information I have and the knowledge to produce that information on the “Observations” webpage of my website www.theprostateadvocate.com in a manner more easily understood by patients and their caregivers. I am a Christian and have a firm belief in the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Ghost. I have concluded that my ability in this endeavor had to be inspired by a much higher source than my own mental capabilities. My God in Three Persons has asked us to extend His Love to everyone we meet; He has said “Love Thy Neighbor as Thy Self” and to have a “gentle and humble heart” for those who are weary and carrying a heavy burden. I feel deep within me that He is using me as an extension of His love to provide understanding to those who contact me regarding our Prostate Cancer in order to help them be more knowledgeable so that they can participate with their physicians in insuring they receive the best and most appropriate treatment, and to ease their burden of worry and concern. “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you” - no matter your religious faith or whether agnostic or atheist, I am here for you.

I made the decision to research and deeply study prostate cancer initially to insure that my consequent move to androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) would be appropriate and most effective. As people began reading my responses to concerns posted on several on-line prostate cancer support lists and began emailing directly to me seeking my assistance to help them understand their status and provide them information they could understand and subsequently take to their physicians for further discussion regarding their treatment, I saw the need and knew I had to dedicate my retirement years to ease the burden of concern of men and their caregivers throughout the world following in this unexpected and unwanted journey. As these emails began elevating in number and many of my responses being repetitions of what I had provided other patients or caregivers, I realized that I needed to prepare individual papers that addressed each specific issue. This was the beginning of what I termed my “Observations” page – my personal observations regarding different aspects of treating prostate cancer as well as the treatment of the side effects that too often accompany most treatment options. At the time of this paper there are over 230 papers on the “Observations” webpage of my website www.theprostateadvocate.com and I know that number will increase as

more is learned. Treatment options for this insidious men's disease are changing almost daily as new medications are showing effectiveness in trials and scientists and physicians are learning new methods of treatment. I have learned much from participation on prostate cancer research panels with research scientists and later attending the first IMPaCT (Innovative Minds in Prostate Cancer Today) with 600 of those scientists as well as 100 fellow advocates; in attending several annual PCRI (Prostate Cancer Research Institute) conferences on prostate cancer; in personal discussion or email exchanges with some of the top Medical Oncologists in the world who specialize specifically in research and treatment of recurring, high grade, and advanced prostate cancer; in personal discussion and email exchanges with local Urologists, Medical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, and Pathologists; with discussions and email exchanges with fellow mentors; and in my continuing personal research and study. I could never have done this, and continue to do this for these many years, without what must be my Guardian Angel's intercession with my God to invigorate my brain cells to understand, accumulate, and retain the amount of information I have.

I believe in the power of prayer and I hope you do, too.

My time in advocacy and mentoring will eventually pass, but I hope patients and caregivers will occasionally recall if the recommendations I made (my "alms" to all) eased their burden of concern, pray regularly, and include in their prayers kind memories of me.

In closing, please take the time to review the following:

Live a Life That Matters

Below is one of the most beautiful & powerful videos I have received. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I can only pray that I have played a role in the lives of others in those things that did matter in this rendition. "Click" on the first picture in the below when it appears and then it will automatically continue from there

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/89476173>