



June 2010
From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck

Unity Church of Bakersfield
 1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301
www.ucob.org
 Church: 661-327-8614 or
 Home Office: 661-391-0302

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, KD has had several health challenges over the past year. Challenges that tested her faith and the very principles Unity teaches. This is her story:

Every now and then we are faced with a challenge so great that it causes us to question not only ourselves but our understanding of faith. This past January I embarked on one such journey, one of unexpected and still unknown outcomes. In the beginning of my

“wilderness experience”

I came down with a rapidly progressing yet very brief bout of pneumonia. However, when my energy failed to return and eight weeks of follow up blood test revealed elevated white blood cell counts, I was tested for everything from Rheumatoid arthritis to Valley Fever. All the tests came back negative. There was nothing to explain my extreme fatigue and still elevated white blood cell count. I was referred to the Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center (CBCC).

I have been under the care of a specialist in Hematology and Medical Oncology since February and recently underwent a bone marrow biopsy. On the day that I finally received preliminary diagnoses of a white blood cell and platelet disorder, I was unexpectedly called out of a Supervisor’s Staff meeting and informed that my name was on the potential layoff list for the county.

It is sometimes through our greatest challenges that we experience the most spiritual growth.

While I have “bumping rights” for a lower position, I would force someone else out of their position.

Suddenly all the stresses of the past few months came crashing in on me. I cried uncontrollably for 24 hours straight. I could not understand why this was happening to me. I know the spiritual principles and thought I was doing everything right. Despite the painful procedures and fatigue I kept positive, I carried on. But, God this is more than I can handle!!! What did I do wrong to create this experience and how do I “fix it”? I felt for the first time that the spiritual principles I held so dear had let me down, I somehow was not faithful enough. I was struggling and felt lost.

But, despite my misgivings I ventured out and found help, wisdom, and comfort from avenues that I may not have explored before. I found the support of a loving counselor, colleagues, doctors, and friends. Of course, my best friend and husband Chuck has been right there beside me even when I didn’t want to hear what he had say. Yes, God was and continues to be with me throughout this experience; just I had to give myself permission to be vulnerable and to ask for help.

While this journey continues on, I have emerged with a stronger faith. I didn’t create this experience, it isn’t good or bad. It just is. I know that I may still have days where I feel exhausted and need more patience with myself. But there will also days when my energy is high and I celebrate. It is sometimes through our greatest challenges that we experience the most spiritual growth. So dear ones be gentle with yourself.



Blessings,
 KD Vargo-Courneya