



What do you want said at your funeral? A pretty tough question, but something we should all think about. For our friend Will, this was a reality he was facing less than a year ago. ***In August of 2011 Will was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. With treatment he was given an 8% chance of surviving.*** A very grim diagnosis.

We met Will and his wife Michele in August of last year under some pretty stressful circumstances. Michele was a fellow member of my (Jennifer's) MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) group. I had heard that Michele and Will were having some marital problems, so we reached out to them.

Will and Michele have been married for 5 years, have 5 children and they are a blended family. Both Michele and Will have been married before and have children they brought with them into their new marriage. They shared with us that they did not have proper training/examples for their marriage. They did not know how to do marriage the Lord's way.



When Michele and Will got into an argument they would blow up at each other. Will would leave for a month or two to let things cool down then they would get back together; however, they never dealt with the real issues.

They were separated at the time when Will received the devastating diagnosis. Michele said to me through tears, "We don't want to leave it this way, we need help, we need to fix our marriage now!" Will was very ill, he could not leave home to attend an event or to go to counseling. Nathan and I loaned them our personal **Art of Marriage®** video set. We told them to take their time, view the videos together and do the couple projects.

Two weeks later, Michele brought the **Art of Marriage®** back and said it was the best thing that they have ever done for their marriage. They paused the videos several times to talk about what they were learning. The last video session about spiritual legacy hit Will very hard as the question ***"What do you want said at your funeral?"*** is asked. Will pondered this question for 2 days, but finally answered, ***"I want people to say...in the end he got it right, in the end he became a good husband and father!"***

We are thrilled to report that 1 year later Will is still with us and their family has made a big turnaround. After 9 months of chemo, surgery, and lots of prayers, Will is winning his battle with cancer and he is in remission! ***Praise be to God for the physical healing taking place in Will. Praise God also for the healing that is taking place in Will's marriage!*** Over the last year, they have drawn closer to the Lord. Will started to read his Bible and he and Michele started reading "Moments with You", a FamilyLife daily couples devotion. Michele admits that sometimes they even read two or three devotions in one day because they enjoy them so much.

What would we do without Christ in our life? We are so thankful that His grace has covered our past mistakes and sins. We can look toward the future with hope, knowing that through Christ's power we can change. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Paul writes, ***"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me."***

Nathan & Jennifer

Praises and Prayers

Praise: For the work the Lord has done, and is continuing to do in Will and Michele's marriage! Pray that the Lord will continue to heal Will physically, he starts another round of "maintenance-chemo" at the end of September.

Praise: that Lucas and Allison had a good start to their school year.

Pray: That God will quickly direct us to the local church He has planned for us so that we can join and get plugged in.

Pray: that the Lord will strengthen our own marriage and that we will both stay close to Him.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Lucas had a great first day of school. He has made a good friend already and really likes his teacher.

Allison, however, thinks there is not enough recess or snack time in Kindergarten.

Our new Address

3509 Crepe Myrtle Cove
Benton, AR 72015

We would love to have you come and visit us. If you are passing through Arkansas or if you have a weekend free, give us a call and come on down. As they say here in Arkansas,

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