

I've prayed for. Knowing that God brought Regina into my life, and the kids we have."

Regina agrees. "God was in control of everything. He saw us through, brought Tim home safe every time. I always felt like Tim was who God had sent for me. I always felt like I was where I was supposed to be doing what I was supposed to be doing. I supported him 100 percent." God is in control.

Though Tim and Regina were accustomed to the rigors of life as a Marine Corp family, the battle that came knocking in December 2008 would test them more than ever.

While shopping at Kroger one day, Regina experienced blurred vision in her right eye, lasting about 30 minutes. Later that same week she had blurred vision in both eyes, followed by a terrible headache. Motrin and rest helped, but just to be safe, Regina went to the doctor. As a precaution, her doctor ordered a scan of her head, doubting he would find anything. The Tuesday before Christmas, Regina had her scan.

Almost immediately after returning to work, she received a call from her doctor, wanting to see her that day. They found lesions on her brain and referred her to a neurosurgeon in Lexington. Following more tests, they found the cancer in her lungs, where it actually began and then spread to the brain.

"Unfortunately, at the time, he told me maybe a year was the longest he would give me," Regina recalls. They did two rounds of chemo, rescanned, only to discover that the cancer had spread. Her doctor decided to try a different chemo.

"The first chemo made me very, very ill. This second chemo hasn't made me sick," Regina says.

"We talk about the Marine Corps fighting spirit," says Tim. "We're not going to give up. We're going to fight until the very end. We just don't know any better."

They have been honest with their teenagers, Abby and Zach, from the start. Regina says, "I continue to pray that God will surround them with Christian friends that can give them the support that they need, and that God would place those people in their path to be there for them."

The Tyes have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, locally and from Marine Corps friends.

"We've got families in Okinawa and Vietnam, all over the United States, friends we have made, still keeping in contact and supporting us, even though we're spread all over the world," says Regina.

And Regina knows that God is still in control. "God is the center of our life. We've put all this in His hands from the beginning in the military life to now and we have to trust that He's the One in control."

She goes on, "I know God does miracles, and I'd love to be one of those miracles. If I'm not, the bottom line is I still give Him all the glory. For everything. I put my trust in Him, He's the One who can see me through it."

"I don't want to die," Regina says through tears. "I pray that God will bless me with many more years. But if I do, I'm saved and I'm ready to go."

Tim adds, "I told the kids that the promise we have is that we'll see Mom again in heaven if something happens. That's the important thing about being saved; it seals your fate for eternity."

It appears Regina is getting her miracle. At her last report, the cancer in her brain was gone and the tumors in her lungs had been reduced. She has been accepted into a clinical trial in Nashville and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Semper Fidelis, always faithful — the faithfulness of God to this family, the commitment of a husband and wife, the courage of a father and mother, the Marine Corps fighting spirit.

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