



The Open Mouth

Ezekiel 2:8

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Cancer Update On Tuesday, April 4, I (Steve) had what we pray will be my last chemotherapy treatment. Like some of the other bleomycin infusions, this one resulted in a fever, though not as severe as the others. My first CT scan after finishing chemo was somewhat inconclusive as it still showed slightly enlarged lymph nodes. The doctors seem to feel the results were normal however and though it isn't certain, there is a good chance the chemo was completely successful and the cancer is gone. In any case, I have commenced a regimen of monthly blood tests and quarterly CT scans to monitor against future reoccurrence. My blood is normal and recovered, my hair is starting to grow back, and except for some pain and tingling in extremities as my nerves recover from neuropathy, I feel pretty normal. We feel very peaceful about the situation and are doing our best to put it all behind us and move on with life. If I ever have any recurrence we will certainly keep you posted. Thank you once again for your faithful prayers for us during these months. We have truly been blessed and honored by an avalanche of support and encouragement this winter. Though I hope not to repeat these months, I can honestly say we experienced more joy than pain and suffering during these weeks. ***“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.” (II Cor 1:10-11)*** Love those verb tenses - has delivered, will deliver, will continue to deliver. Thank you for being part of the “many” for us!

In Their Own Words From April 7-14, twenty-one of our high school students and five adult volunteers spent their spring break vacation serving in an impoverished region of **Slovakia**, one of our newest NATO partners. Our teens spent the week building and fixing a playground, leading a vacation Bible school, and conducting sports ministries with children at a Slovak school. As with our middle school service project this winter, I (Steve) was unfortunately unable to go due to recovering from my last round of chemotherapy. As has invariably been our experience, this week proved to be a very powerful experience for nearly everyone who attended. There are numerous great stories I could share with you, but since the information is secondhand, I thought it would be better to let you hear how some of our teens summed up the week in answer to the question: **What's the main thing you learned this week?**



“I learned that Jesus really does love me, and I finally understand the reason he died on the cross.”

“As much as I want things to be about me, I know that they can't be. As much as I want to improve myself, I need to focus on God and his kingdom, which also means serving others.”

“That God does love me and that I can change.”

“Being patient and loving everybody that I normally don't talk to.”

“You can't give things into God's hands and then be sullen that he didn't manage it the way you wanted it to be.”

“How well I live and I appreciate it more.”

“That God will always be there and that when bad things happen it's not His fault.”

“How to be a servant for God, to put your own need and wants aside to help people.”

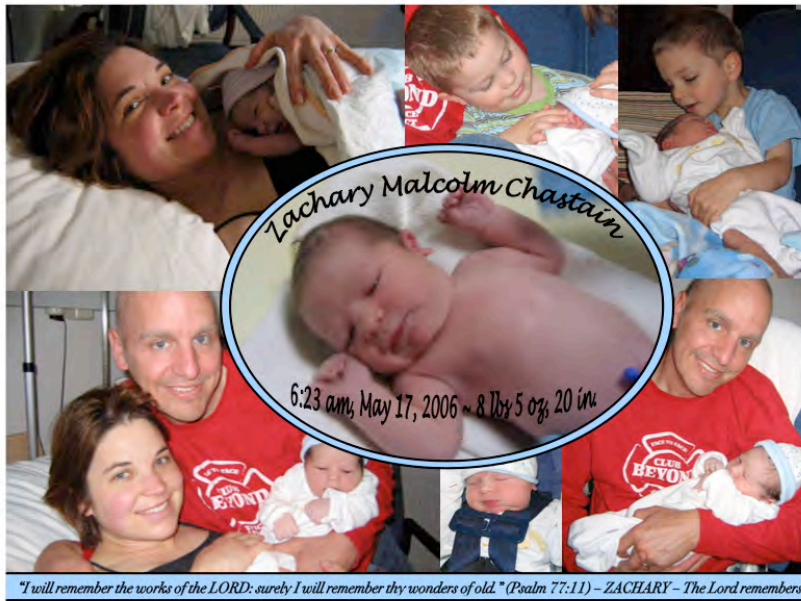


(We've got a) **Piper Down!** On Sunday, April 30, Club Beyond and the chapel brought the Christian "aggressive rock" band Piper Down to perform a free concert on base. (Yes, they *are* named after a line in a certain quirky Mike Myers film.) Piper Down is a music ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. It was fun partnering with another organization, and it was thoroughly enjoyable for us and for our community to host these brothers and sisters in Christ. According to several of our students, "they rocked!" Besides the great (and loud!) music, they also gave a bold Gospel

presentation. We had about 50-60 kids at the concert, definitely our largest local event. Many of those students are not at all involved in Club Beyond. Please pray that we will be have the opportunity to continue the conversation about Christ that Piper Down initiated with these teens during the concert.



Lead singer Seth and one of our teens



Our New Addition On Wednesday, May 17, Zachary Malcolm joined our family – right on his due date! Shannon’s labor was mercifully short and without complications and we checked out of the hospital just six hours after he was born. That’s normal in the Netherlands; in lieu of a long hospital stay, you have a nurse come to your home for the first week for checkups and to help around the house. Great system! Caleb and Joseph adore their new baby brother and are very excited to hold him and hug him every morning. He is a very mellow and content baby who’s been eating, sleeping (no, not all night!), and growing like a champ from day one. Zachary’s name means “The Lord remembers”; remembering God’s goodness has been an important, recurring theme in our lives over the past year.

Praise God for...

- Forty teens registered for our summer camp in Italy
- Amazing relationships with school faculty and administrators
- A fantastic student leader who is just on fire for God
- A beautiful and healthy baby boy (and his two big brothers)
- The end of Steve’s chemotherapy

...and Pray with us for:

- Kids to meet Christ for the first time at this camp
- A chaplain and other friends currently deployed
- Many teens and families moving this summer
- An excellent summer of ministry
- No recurrence of cancer

In Christ, *Steve, Shannon*
 CALEB - Joseph + Zachary

MCYM: Building the Church, celebrating life with teens, introducing them to the Lifegiver, and helping them become like Him.