

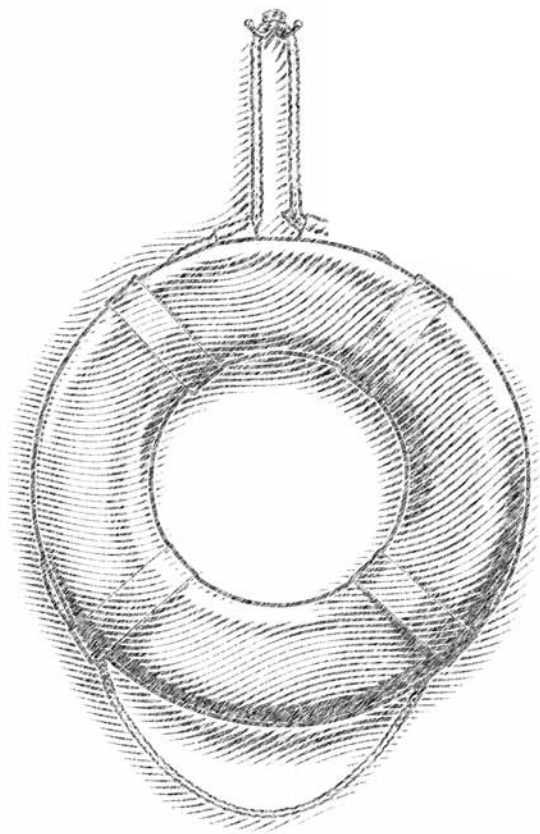
He who dwells in the shelter  
of the Most High will abide in  
the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD,  
“My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”

For He will command  
His angels concerning you to  
guard you in all your ways.

Psalms 91:1–2





# *Blessings & Prayers* FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

A Devotional Companion

By Karen Boerger and Annetta Dellinger

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*This book is dedicated to special friends  
who have walked the cancer journey  
and helped us with this book.*

*Thank you, Ann, Lyla, Marti,  
Millie, and Ruth.*

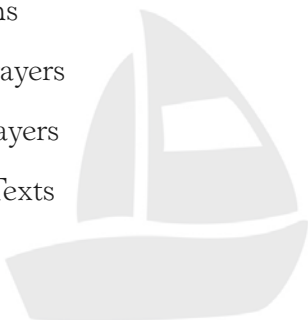
*We love you!*



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# Preface

Cancer survivors have strengths that amaze everyone.

They bear hardships, and they carry burdens.

They smile when they want to scream;

they sing when they want to cry.

They cry when they're happy

and laugh when they're nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.

They don't take no for an answer when they believe there's a better solution.

They research and then research some more.

They look forward because they trust in the Lord.

They bear the indignities of cancer with patience.

They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.

They cry when their children excel

and cheer when their friends succeed.

They are happy when they hear about a birth or a wedding.

They grieve when a cancer buddy dies.

They pray and give thanks for the close friends  
who give them strength,

and they find strength when they think  
they have none left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can send a  
heart soaring.

They drive to, fly to, walk to, run to, phone, or  
e-mail another cancer victim to show how much  
they care.

They keep things going because they have heart.

They bring joy, hope, love, compassion,  
and ideas.

They give spiritual support to their family  
and friends.

They nurture their children with the love shown  
in the gift of a Savior.

They pray without ceasing.

We acknowledge the gifts of cancer survivors,  
and we remember those who suffer no  
more and walk in newness of life.

*Karen and Annetta*





# Meditations

## Love

### Why Save the Chemo Wig?

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

On a sunny spring day, Jan decided to tackle the bedroom closet. With closet space at a premium in her small apartment, it was time to organize summer clothes and pack winter items away. As she surveyed the task at hand, Jan looked up to the top shelf and saw her wig. As she took it down, she thought, *Why am I keeping this? I should just toss it.*

Holding the wig, Jan thought back to five years ago when chemotherapy ruled her life. Losing her hair wasn't a pleasant experience, but having the wig helped her remain stable to meet the world head-on. The scarves she wore when she didn't want to don the wig were repurposed, now adding color to her day wear. But why save the chemo wig?



Perhaps Jan's wig serves as a badge of courage. Perhaps it still sits in her closet as a functional wig, waiting just in case it's needed once more. Perhaps now it says to her, "I'm okay." It made her feel beautiful at a time when she didn't feel that way. It covered her when she felt exposed. Perhaps Jan's wig in the closet is a combination of all three.

Many emotions run through the minds of cancer survivors. For them, the disease never really goes away; it just gets put aside. As Jan unconsciously hugged her wig to her heart, she was reminded of God's faithfulness.

Jan has a great faith in God and in His power in her life. She trusts Him more than anything else. And during chemo, when she was at her lowest point physically, Jan's faith had never been stronger. As she thought back to that time and to the peace from God that she felt, she bowed her head and prayed, "Dear Father, You are the love of my life. You have been with me every moment, through the good and the bad. You are my all in all. I do not fear the future because I know You are with me. And I know that whatever happens in this life, You will take me through it to the better life ahead. For Jesus' sake. Thank You, Father! Amen."

## *Love*

### A Dog Named Lucky

*For God so loved the world, that He gave  
His only Son, that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Lucky was a special dog, a loving and funny character who had a special place in Mary and Jim's family. With big brown eyes and long soft ears, Lucky was the cutest thief you'd ever want to meet. When Mary and Jim had overnight guests, they warned their friends not to leave their luggage open because Lucky would help himself to whatever struck his fancy. Inevitably, someone would forget, and then something would come up missing. Mary or Jim would go to Lucky's toy box in the basement, and there the treasure would be, nestled among Lucky's favorite toys. Lucky always stashed his finds in his toy box and was very particular that *his toys stayed* in the box.

It happened that Mary found out she had breast cancer. She believed she was going to die of this disease; she was sure it was fatal.

Mary scheduled the double mastectomy, fear riding her shoulders. The night before she was to go to the hospital, she cuddled with Lucky. A thought struck her—*what would happen to Lucky?* Although the three-year-old dog liked Jim, he was Mary's dog through and through. *If I die, Lucky will be devastated*, Mary thought. *He won't understand that I didn't want to leave him.* The thought made her sadder than thinking of her own death.

The double mastectomy was harder on Mary than her doctors had anticipated, and she was hospitalized for more than two weeks. Jim faithfully took Lucky for his evening walks, but the dog drooped and whined and was miserable. Finally, the day came for Mary to leave the hospital. When she arrived home, she was so exhausted that she couldn't even make it up the steps to her bedroom. Jim made his wife as comfortable as he could on the couch and left the house to run some quick errands. Lucky stood watching Mary, but he didn't come to her when she called. It made Mary sad, but fatigue soon overcame her and she dozed.

When Mary woke from her nap, she knew something was wrong. She couldn't move her head, and her body felt heavy and hot. Panic soon gave way to laughter, though, when Mary realized the problem. She was covered, literally blanketed, in every treasure Lucky owned!

While she slept, the sorrowing dog made trip after trip to the basement and back, bringing his beloved mistress his favorite things in life. He had covered her with his love.

Mary forgot about dying. Instead, she and Lucky began living again. As the days went on and Mary began to heal, she and Lucky began taking walks together. Short distances at first and then walking farther and farther every day.

It's been twelve years since Mary's surgery, and she is still cancer-free. Lucky? He still steals treasures and stashes them in his toy box, but Mary remains his greatest treasure.  
—Author Unknown

This story has circulated on the Internet for years, but its message of devotion and love remain compelling. It is reminiscent of the love Jesus shows

us. He covered us with His saving love when He laid down His life on the cross. As the hymnwriter says, "What wondrous love is this!" We can rest assured that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are God's treasures. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and blanketed us with forgiving love. What wondrous love, indeed!



## *Acts of Kindness*

### **Jesus Loves You, Mommy!**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

Angie enjoys helping her daughter, Alicia, at her lemonade stand. Together they make lemonade and package homemade cookies in bags to sell for a quarter apiece. Angie often comments that her daughter was so young to have been through so much, but she adds that Alicia was made stronger by all of it. Now, Angie gladly helps Alicia share her kindness and raise quarters for cancer research.