

# Question & Answers

## Regarding Steve Willoughby's Health

Update 1: 13 Nov 08

### **Q1: What is wrong with Bishop Willoughby?**

A week ago, Bishop Willoughby sought specialist advice regarding dizziness and problems with his balance. A neurologist and a ENT specialist at the Singapore General Hospital made a diagnosis of vestibular neuritis or an inner ear infection and he was given medication to alleviate the symptoms. In the USA, he began to experience numbness in his left leg and some cognitive impairment i.e. short-term memory loss. When his symptoms grew worse, he was admitted to a hospital for tests. A CT scan of the brain revealed that he had bleeding in the brain and a blood clot in his jugular vein. A provisional diagnosis of either a stroke or aneurysm was made. An angiogram done the following day showed lesions (tumours) in his brain. A full body CT scan performed yesterday revealed a 3cm growth in his lung and a spot on one of his ribs. A diagnosis of cancer was made. Additional tests will be performed including a biopsy to determine the type and stage of the cancer.

### **Q2: What is lung cancer?**

Lung cancer is a disease of uncontrolled cell growth in the tissues of the lung. This growth may lead to metastasis, which is invasion of other tissue or organs beyond the lung. The main types of lung cancer are small-cell lung cancer and non-small lung cancer. The occurrence of lung cancer in people *who have never smoked* is approximately 20%.

### **Q3: What is a brain lesion (tumour)?**

A brain tumour is a tumour created by abnormal and uncontrolled cell division in the brain. Medical professionals are still uncertain about the exact causes of brain tumours.

### **Q4: What stage of cancer does Bishop Willoughby have?**

The stage of cancer is unknown at this time. A biopsy will be performed to determine the stage of the cancer.

### **Q5: What treatment will he receive?**

Bishop Willoughby is being treated at the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, USA. The Neurosciences Unit at Georgetown is a US renowned tertiary care centre. The most immediate problem the specialists will tackle are the brain lesions which are affecting his parietal lobe and brainstem. The lesions are causing him to have numbness in his legs, dizziness and short-term memory loss. The neurosurgeons are considering using CyberKnife, which is a nonsurgical procedure, to eliminate the lesions.

### **Q6: When will Bishop Willoughby return to Singapore?**

This is unknown. At present, Bishop Willoughby is unable to travel due to the adverse effects he is experiencing from the brain lesions as mentioned above.

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## **Q7: What is going to happen to the church?**

Pastor Timothy Lee will continue to pastor Tabernacle of Joy. All regularly scheduled services will continue. Our annual family camp meeting, 'Deep Calleth Deep' will proceed. Both speakers, Rev Lee Stoneking and Rev Joe Ellis have confirmed their commitment to minister at DCD, 15 - 19 December.

## **Q8: I am in shock, I feel numb and I just cry. Is this normal?**

Your reactions upon hearing about Bishop Willoughby's illness are normal. It is normal for us to experience pain, disappointment and perhaps even anger when a loved one is diagnosed with a critical illness. At times, you may feel helpless and sad. Give yourself the time and space to grieve.

## **Q9: Why did God allow this to happen?**

It is never easy to understand why bad things happen to good people. Understanding the purpose of suffering in our lives is difficult. Bishop Willoughby has always possessed the character of optimism and faith. We have no doubt that he will continue to do so as he begins this new chapter in his life.

## **Q10: What should I say to the family?**

Be sensitive and offer words of encouragement. Take the time to listen, rather than give solutions or answers. You may send words of encouragement to the Willoughbys by posting comments on our website at [www.tabjoy.org](http://www.tabjoy.org).

## **Q11: What is Tabernacle of Joy doing to help the family?**

The Willoughbys have been blessed by an extraordinary outpouring of support from churches in the US since Bishop Willoughby was hospitalised. One church is paying for all of Sis Willoughby's hotel bills, food and rental car. Another church sponsored Meghan's and Barak's airline tickets. The Willoughbys have medical insurance so this addresses concern about his hospital bill. A suggestion was made to send someone from Singapore to Washington to assist the Willoughbys. After several discussions with Sis Willoughby, it has been decided that with the current level of support she is receiving, there is no need to send someone over at this time. This of course will be reviewed weekly.

## **Q12: What can I do?**

God has given each believer two powerful weapons - prayer and worship (*More details will be given to you on Sunday.*) Corporately and individually, the most important things that we can do at this time are as follows:

- Pray for Bishop Willoughby daily (Please see attached prayer pointers)
- Pray for Sis Barbara Willoughby daily
- Pray for Meghan, Barak and Mikayla daily
- Prayer for Pastoral Team (Timothy Lee And Dodjie Cargando and the leadership team daily)
- Faithfully attend Tabernacle of Joy services
- Encourage and support one another
- Stay united!