

Subject: Brief Update

Date: Wed, 21 Feb 2007 01:13:29 +0000

Dear Family and Friends,

This is a brief note to inform you that last week Dante was transferred to Hospice care. His oncologist said that, since Dante is in a slow decline and there are no further strategies available to help him, the next step is Hospice.

Dante remains at home with me still being considered the primary caregiver. We want to thank you for all the logs anointed with holy oil that you have been throwing on the fire in our behalf. They have truly been sustaining us. We ask that you continue your prayers for us, especially since this has been a rather difficult transition and time of adjustment. Thank you also for the emails, cards, phone calls and visits; they have been and continue to be an important source of encouragement to us and also keep us connected to the outside world.

More to follow later.

In His Grip,

Dante and Jackie

Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2007 03:19:58 +0000

Dear Family and Friends,

We have received many beautiful responses to yesterday's email; thank you so much for supporting us and praying for us. We have received several inquiries as to how Dante is doing with all this. His spirit remains strong and his unbelievable determination is amazing. In fact, many of his care providers during his recent hospitalizations told me they believe his strong, determined, independent spirit is what has kept him alive so long. His Hospice nurse noticed it right away. The other day he said, "Just because I am now a Hospice patient doesn't mean I'm going to give up and die. No way!!! I'm going to fight harder than ever. I don't want to die because I still have so many things I want to do for my Lord." (Remember one of his favorite verses?

Psalm 118:17 "I will not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.") Then he added again, "We have to get the fires burning stronger than ever."

This doesn't mean that there is no suffering; to the contrary, he suffers a great deal, often with great intensity. But he remains determined to get through each period of suffering in order to get on with life again. Last week he even went to work for a couple of hours; he thrives on being with people and being able to minister. He continues to acknowledge that the Lord is totally in control of his life, and that only He knows the day and the time when any of us will pass on.

Thank you again for all of the wonderful support we are receiving. Your prayers are being heard in our behalf as we continue to experience the comfort and peace that only comes from God. May God continue to bless each one of you richly.

In His Grip,

Dante and Jackie