

ED BOUSMAN'S RECOVERY

Written by Melanie Rightmyer

It is a rare thing to see the founder of GIJAPA listed on his own email prayer list, but this has been the case for the past 38 days. I wanted to attempt to explain the journey of the founder for the GIJAPA ministries whom we affectionately call "Papa Ed" has been living for more than a month. Approximately a year ago, Ed was diagnosed with cancerous tumors of the bladder which were successfully removed. These tumors were caught early enough so that they were noninvasive and contained in the bladder only. While the surgery went well, Ed developed a rare form of an auto immune disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa Acquisita (EBA). (Which ironically has the same acronym as the Ed Bousman Association). This condition manifested itself in the form of large painful blisters all over his body. This extended his recovery time into months and limited his ability to continue the public speaking part of his ministry, but not the radio broadcast since his recording studio is located in his home. In addition, Ed suffered a stroke on June 15, 2010. Being a man of strong will and faith, Ed pushed himself through rehab to the point of being able to administer the vows for our daughter Casandra's wedding on July 10, 2010. Ed was doing well until this past January 5th when he noticed blood in his urine once again.

On March 15, 2011, Ed went in for a normal cystoscopy check-up and ended up with the removal of tumors in the bladder. While the out-patient surgery went well, he was admitted to Bethesda North Hospital on March 16, 2011, and remains there still. We didn't know it until six surgeries later, each one to stop the bleeding, but the auto immune disorder returned. This time it came in the form of Acquired Hemophilia Factor VIII Deficiency with Inhibitors, and a week later developed Factor XI Deficiency, both rare severe bleeding disorders, as seen through large, painful blood clots. To date 26 units of blood plus 2 units of frozen plasma have been given as life saving treatments. At the time of this writing, Ed has been in the hospital for 38 days, 12 of which have been in the ICU. All this has been very difficult on a man whom up until one year ago never had that first medical problem. Ed has spent four times more days in the hospital this past month than he has in his whole lifetime combined.

We all know that Ed is more than ready to see the Lord, but we also think there are two things he is not ready to leave. First, his ministry - Even from his hospital bed, Ed has been talking to his nurses, patient care attendants, and doctors about the Lord. Many have commented they recognized his voice, realizing it was, "Ed Bousman, bringing you the God Is Just A Prayer Away radio broadcast." He does not want to give up on that one more soul he might help lead to Christ. During one hospital visit I recalled he explained the burden he felt for the many lost souls. Another time when he wasn't sure how long he would survive he instructed mom to keep the radio ministry going for as long as she could. He has enough recorded sermons to be on every Sunday for 5 years without duplication. Secondly, he does not want to leave mom - She has been his wife for 29 years come December and a partner in his ministry for at least ten years prior to that. The hospital staff has observed the devotion of a loving wife as mom has never left Ed's side during the entire 34 days hospitalized other than four hours to run home and pay the radio bills. She is able to do most of her GIJAPA work (sending the weekly sermons to the radio stations) from her laptop computer in the hospital room thanks to my brother, Eric, connecting with the PCs at home by remote access. During that time, I was visiting and watched Papa Ed. I observed a loved one in an excruciating amount of pain, but who was able to find solace through the quoting of scriptures, prayer, and faith in God, the great Healer Exodus 15:26.

Today, Sunday, April 17, 2011, Ed has definitely turned a corner. He went from bleeding to death, kidneys shutting down, and a low blood pressure average of 70/24 to miraculously all vital signs stabilizing and bleeding controlled. He was able to be moved from the ICU back to a regular room and at this time he does continue to fight and improve. As a family and on his behalf we praise God from whom all blessings flow and thank you for your prayers, emails, cards and ask for your continued prayers and support. Special thanks to Amy Butler Cox for running the day to day GIJAPA activities, and keeping the other three parttime employees going. Special thanks to Bob and Dianna Stevens, for taking care of Sheba, Ed's German Shepherd dog, and bringing the things from home that they need almost on a daily basis. Just as Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God". We pray for the Lord's will to be done. While none of us know the time when we will be called to our spiritual home, as Christians we do have the promise of a better tomorrow and one fabulous family reunion. But for now, we are thankful for each additional day the Lord gives Ed to minister.

WHAT THINK YE, THAT HE WILL COME TO THE FEAST?

Communion Meditation by Ed Bousman

"What think ye? That He will not come to the feast?" John 11:56. After the resurrection of Lazarus the chief priest decided to kill Jesus. Jesus withdrew into the country to await the moment when it could be said His hour had come. When the time for the final Passover had come many of the Jews went to Jerusalem to purify themselves. As they waited for the big day they began to look for Jesus. It was then that they asked that question, "What think ye that He will not come to the feast?"

There was nothing more certain than the fact that Jesus would be there for this Passover. He had been present at the institution of the first Passover in the Book of Exodus. It was there that the Israelites were told to slay a lamb for each family and strike the blood on the side posts and the upper doorpost of each home. God said, "I will passover the land and slay the first born of every family in Egypt and when I see the blood I will passover you."

Now the time has come when the last Passover will take place. That is why that Passover is called the Last Supper. So the question was asked, "What think ye that He will not come to the feast?" There was no way Jesus would miss that feast. He, Himself, was to be the Lamb that was slain for the sins of the world.

After He observed that feast in preparation for the slaying of the Lamb of God, it was at that time that He instituted the Lord's Supper. He has commanded the Christians to observe that memorial feast remembering that when the Lord returns in judgment, He will see the blood on the door of the Church of Christ and Passover them. So it is still a good question. Every week as we look forward to the coming of the Lord's Day, we cannot help but wonder about a great percentage of the membership of our congregation, "What think ye, that they will not come to the feast?" It is a sad situation. Many will not come to the feast for the celebration of the slaying of the Lamb of God who died to save us.

There is no way the Lord Jesus Christ would let anything keep Him from the attendance at the feast. What think ye that He will not come to the feast? All things are ready come to the feast! Come for the table now is spread. Ye famishing, ye weary come, and thou shalt be richly fed.

Letters

Madame Naomi: Thanks so much for forwarding me this information about Sir Ed. We are so sad with what is going on to him. Pray God would give you & Sir Ed the strength to bear things & may the Lord heal our Ed Bousman soon! Please give to him our continuous thought & tell him we keep on praying the more to him. Wish we could be there to help things for him & pray there are brethren with you who are working & helping you especially on the day to day operation of GIJAPA. Pray you would have the help & access for any medical means needed for his recovery. We are praying for you both & your doctors. You & Sir Ed & GIJAPA are so precious in His work & millions souls badly needed vou. Be courageous as always! Hello Madame Melanie! This is Ed Domingo of the Philippines. I used to read messages from your Mom Naomi & while I was reading every details of the report update this time I know that somebody has written them... not the one I used to, & I have the specific thought that Madame Melanie has written them for GIJAPA & my guess is right! Thanks a lot Madame for being there with our precious Ed & Naomi. You are doing great for our work. You & your family are in our prayers. Thanks too for the update. May God bless you and your family back to Alabama. Tell Sir Ed his Family in the Philippines are awaiting him for a Greater Work of GIJAPA. Madame, we love You & GIJAPA & thanking of you a lot. Please keep on praying for us too. My both ears seem responding well to my antibiotic & ear drops & the pain has subsided. But still my hearing does not function well yet as there are some watery discharge that blocked my ear canals. Regards to your daughter **MELANIE & GIJAPA STAFF too!**

Ed Domingo Sunset Church of Christ; The Philippines

Dear servants of the living God,

We have received all the 5 boxes of gifts you sent, 2 boxes for Bibles and 3 for clothes. thank you very much. Your support again and again continue to teach me day by day to love the lost souls. My dear brother Ed and sister Naomi Bousman, your continued love for the gospel still makes you young in heart and spirit. You will never grow old. God be with you and all GIJAPA family. Thank you again. The Church is praying for Brother Ed Bousman, wishing him quick recovery. "Dear God, you are everywhere and know all things. God, you know Brother Ed is sick. We come to you, our Lord to take care of Brother Ed Bousman. Father, you can do more than we ask or imagine. Give Brother Ed strength and make him well. Grant that

Lord today will be a good day and tomorrow even better, and that before long he will again stand to preach the gospel and continue doing good to many of us. God we know that you love brother Ed and us too. We pray and leave all our request in your care, knowing that you will do what is best in Jesus' name. Amen."

Fellow servants of God, please pray for us and brother Morgan, 30 years old, married with children. This brother, has been coming to church for one and half years. Yesterday Sunday, 10th April 2011, I preached the sermon that touched his heart, during invitation song, the brother stood, accepted Jesus as his personal savior, repented, confessed Jesus as his Lord and accepted to be baptized. Now, immediately we reached the river, he saw the water, he changed his mind. He told us that he will be baptized next week Sunday. We asked him why taking that dissension, he said something has come in his mind. Please pray for the brother, the Holy Spirit, the great Teacher will teach him more that we have done. The devil is not happy when people are turning to the Lord. Hopefully, Brother Morgan will be baptized the coming Sunday. I will have more Bible studies with him within this week. May our prayers for Brother Morgan, be answered soon. On behalf of Messenger Church of Christ and we, the Maseka family are behind you praying for our spiritual parent, brother Ed Bousman, quick recovery. We are looking to our Heavenly Father, through the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God's power is supreme, His wonders is beyond description and His healing is complete. We are praying for the healing of Brother Ed Bousman. My dear sister Naomi and all your family, it is our desire that, brother Ed Bousman be healed. Most importantly we pray the prayer of Jesus Christ, "not my will, but your will be done." We thank God, that, we trust His will. We pray in the name of our Lord and common Savior Jesus Christ, the great physician. We love you, God be with you and strengthen you.

John Maseka Evangelist Zambia, Africa

Hi Ed and Naomi,

I'm so burdened for you guys. My heart is so heavy! You guys have lots of friends and family, to help and sit with and pray with. Yet I know those lonely nights can be so long and tiring. Those are some very special secret times with God. You and Ed have spent many years laboring together for God and His Church. You are such wonderful Christian people. I know of no other husband and wife team, that has been used by God to bring God's Word to literally millions of people. My friends, those are your stars and your crown. I'm glad to be one of those blessed by Ed's sermons and yours and his life. You both have laid your lives down for God and for the Kingdom. We all are looking for the day, when God will lift us out of this mission field. We (Carmen, Jay, Myself) are trusting God this day, for His Will to be Done!

Love you, (MORE THAN YOU KNOW) Danny Vanscoy Hilliard Church of Christ, Hilliard, OH

Naomi,

 stand why he is not improving with all of the procedures and treatment. We love you and pray for you constantly.

Kerry & Mona Allen-Person To Person Ministries; Hillsboro, OH

Really praying for Ed and trusting the Lord still needs him here, so we will keep up our prayers.

George (Faull) at Summit Theological Seminary

Naomi,

God bless you, Ed and your daughter, my heart and prayers go out to all of you it is so hard to watch the results and pray so much for a sign that Ed is making progress. I am absolutely sure that the Lord is with all of you and that if he has more work for brother Bousman to complete he will send him home again. Ed and you have glorified the name of the Lord on earth and he has devoted his life for his cause and now I know that the Lord has laid up treasures in haven for you both. I am not ready to give up a brother like our Brother Bousman for there are not many in the ministry like him. Please tell him we love both of you. Be sure that our glorified Lord and the Father shall be with all his Dr's and staff as they watch over this man of God and I believe He is the Great Physician, Our Love For You Is in Jesus.

Ivon & Jackie Coleman, Radcliff, KY

Dear Naomi,

We are saddened by this shocking news about brother Ed Bousman ill health. The church in Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue to remember him in our prayers for our Lord Jesus Christ to restore him to normal health. In Christ.

Mike Foday

Naomi, I can certainly understand your fear. You've lived life on a rollercoaster for days - up one day and hopeful only to have it start all over again. "God, you are Almighty and Powerful. Nothing is impossible for you. You've raised the dead and made the blind to see. We know you are able to touch the body of your servant Ed and stop his bleeding and pain. We praise you and thank you for what you are doing right now on his behalf. Bring peace and strength to Naomi. She is a mighty woman of God but even the mighty get tired and uneasy. She needs the peace that passes understanding. I praise you in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen."

Sue & Jerry Chubb Hilliard, OH

Hi, Our prayers are with you both - such a wonderful couple and fine example to us all. We really appreciate all your updates concerning Ed. You both are so special to everyone — especially GOD. When I read yesterday's update, I could just see you standing up in front of a group of ladies talking to us about our GREAT BIG WONDERFUL GOD when you said that. Love and prayers.

Dick & Kay Cline, Jeffersonville OH

Dear Sister Naomi,

I am just from a mission trip from Dakar, Senegal in assisting in the teaching of the Bible school there. I have

been told all the items you sent to us have been received and I am so glad for that. We thank you very much. On our brother Bousman, we thank God for his life and will never rest in praying for him here till total recovery. Our God is Great and His mercy endures forever.

God is our healer and when God says yes who can say no? No one, we are only trusting in the healing power from on High. To Him alone be the glory through Christ our Savior, Amen.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God

Hello folks. Sure hope Ed is okay to get home soon. Is there anything we can do on this end for you folks? PLEASE let us know. Appreciate you folks very much and all you do for the kingdom. Makes the rest of us look "slack". But then again any effort on man's part is slack compared to what Christ has done. Still praying on up here in Canada for you fine folks. God is so so good! Thanks for the updates and please keep us informed when you can. A prayer for Ed and family: "The dawning of another day that you have given us dear Lord and we lay our request before you and wait in expectation. We approach the God who knows all things even our needs. Our request that we lay before you and the need that is so great is another of many that our faithful God can meet. We bring before Ed and his family. There are so many needs that are present as they anxiously, fearfully and lovingly experience day after day. We pray for the strength to carry on. Pray for Ed and those at his bedside. The doctors and the nurses as they care and watch over Ed. Thank you dear God for who you are: creator, life-giver and sustainer of all. In Jesus' name we come to you. Amen" Love to all God less you folks and will keep praying.

Lou Outhouse from Canada

Dear Ed and Naomi,

I am so saddened to hear of your plight with this illness over the past month. Please be encouraged that the saints in Chiefland, Florida are in prayer for you and for the Lord's blessings in Ed's recovery. I was so encouraged and humbled by your email of Ed's condition and still finding the strength to preach on Sunday. With that I must share this with you and hope you understand the impact you have had on my life. In April 2005, Ed preached a revival at the Severn Christian Church, Severn, Maryland (David Frye, Sr. Minister). I was serving then as an associate and was in the process of leaving Maryland and moving on (at that point not fully sure where we were going to live). I preached the sermon on that Sunday evening, and at the fellowship meal afterwards, Ed spoke with my wife Liane, and told her, "What ever you do, don't let that boy (I was 46 years old then) stop preaching." I'll be honest, I hadn't planned on it, but at the same time, I hadn't any plans to continue either. Well, we left Maryland in August and after some traveling, we settled near Knoxville, Tennessee. After four months, no job, and disappointment with many of the churches in that area, we chose to move to Florida, and be near our youngest son, his wife and 3 grandchildren. We attended this quaint little congregation in Chiefland, Florida and we were very happy with the preaching and fellowship of the church. I took on a full-time accounting position with Coca-Cola and things were looking up. A short 7 months later the preacher took a position as a camp director and we were left without a preacher. I was approached by the elders and asked to preach and teach on Sundays. I was honored, and excited, but told them it would only be temporary. Well, that was October 2006 and I am still preaching and teaching every Sunday and "tag" teaching on Wednesdays with another man who is a "retired" preacher who used to be one of the ministers here. I am thankful for this ministry and how the Lord's blessing this congregation. But, I think back often on Ed's advice to my wife, and I truly must say, Thank the Lord for His goodness to me, and thank you Ed for your commitment to the Lord, His word and a "young" preacher who received encouragement at the right time in my life. You are both such a blessing to so many people and have touched the lives of countless souls with the gospel. Thank you so much, Ed and Naomi. Be encouraged and we will continue to pray, In Christ, Tom Shoff, Minister, First Christian Church, Chiefland, FL



Lynchburg, Ohio 45142 Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 511

ED BOUSMAN Evangelistic Association, Inc.

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Lynchburg, OH 45142 Permit No. 36