

**From: Pastor Youa Kao Vang**

## **What a Difference a Year Makes**

**I can't believe I was diagnosed with Leukemia a year ago, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and was confirmed that I have Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I remember when the Doctor told me that I had two choices: Go home for Home Hospice or get treatment. They told me that the type of Leukemia I have can kill a person in ONE month without treatment. I chose the treatment to keep me alive. So I was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital for 5 weeks for Chemotherapy.**

**This was just the beginning of my year.**

**Thank you to all who have come to visit me, all of those who have sent me heartwarming cards, and everyone who has prayed for me. And.....**

**Thank you to all the Ascension disciples for your prayers, support, and Cards during the time I was hospitalized in Chicago. I've been home for about 2 weeks and am very happy to be back with my family and friends. I am still very weak and have lost a lot of weight since my Cord Blood Transplant. Even though I am back in Milwaukee, I will still have to travel back to Chicago weekly for follow-ups. We are still unsure of how long this recovery process will take for me to be healthy enough to return to church but I hope it will be soon. I can't believe it's already been a year since I have been diagnosed with Leukemia. I feel very fortunate to have made it this far. I hope that the worst has passed and my recovery will be much easier. I have missed church and all of the people that I work with.**

**Thank you to all the Ascension Leaders for your help in the Hmong Ministry and also stepping forward with the leadership of Pastor Jon and Pastor Baires when I became sick. I am very grateful to have colleagues like you all to rely on.**

**I will try to update you all weekly with my health.**

**Pastor Youa Kao Vang**