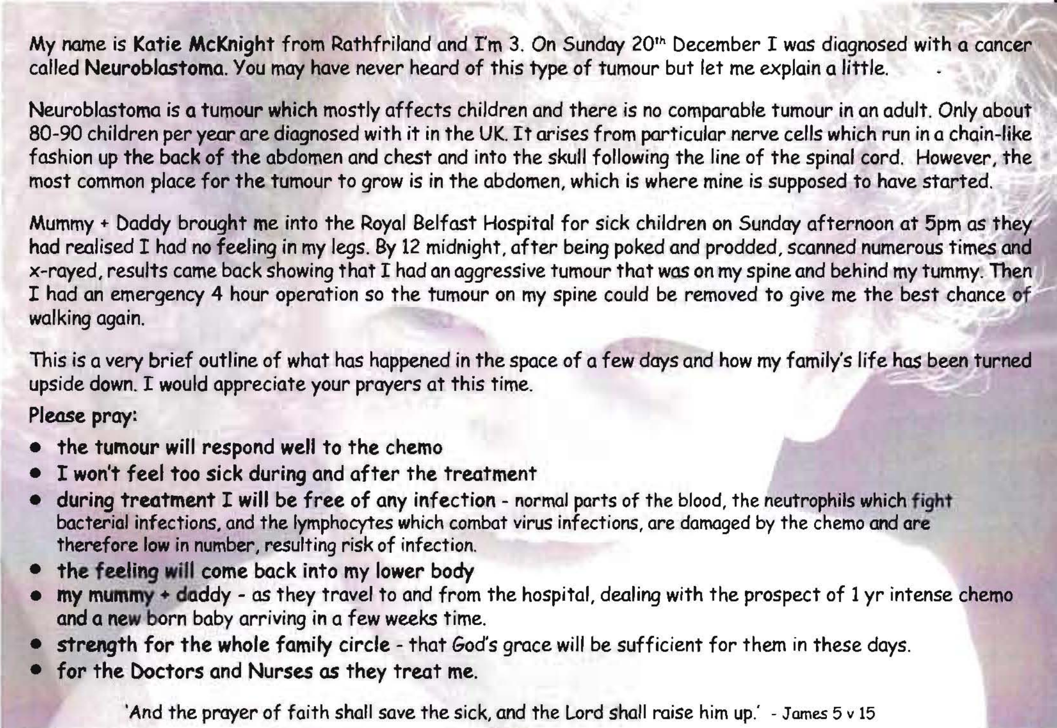
Please
Pray
for me



My name is **Katie McKnight** from Rathfriland and I'm 3. On Sunday 20th December I was diagnosed with a cancer called **Neuroblastoma.** You may have never heard of this type of tumour but let me explain a little.

Neuroblastoma is a tumour which mostly affects children and there is no comparable tumour in an adult. Only about 80-90 children per year are diagnosed with it in the UK. It arises from particular nerve cells which run in a chain-like fashion up the back of the abdomen and chest and into the skull following the line of the spinal cord. However, the most common place for the tumour to grow is in the abdomen, which is where mine is supposed to have started.

Mummy + Daddy brought me into the Royal Belfast Hospital for sick children on Sunday afternoon at 5pm as they had realised I had no feeling in my legs. By 12 midnight, after being poked and prodded, scanned numerous times and x-rayed, results came back showing that I had an aggressive tumour that was on my spine and behind my tummy. Then I had an emergency 4 hour operation so the tumour on my spine could be removed to give me the best chance of walking again.

This is a very brief outline of what has happened in the space of a few days and how my family's life has been turned upside down. I would appreciate your prayers at this time.

Please pray:

- **the tumour will respond well to the chemo**
- **I won't feel too sick during and after the treatment**
- **during treatment I will be free of any infection** - normal parts of the blood, the neutrophils which fight bacterial infections, and the lymphocytes which combat virus infections, are damaged by the chemo and are therefore low in number, resulting risk of infection.
- **the feeling will come back into my lower body**
- **my mummy + daddy** - as they travel to and from the hospital, dealing with the prospect of 1 yr intense chemo and a new born baby arriving in a few weeks time.
- **strength for the whole family circle** - that God's grace will be sufficient for them in these days.
- **for the Doctors and Nurses as they treat me.**

'And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.' - James 5 v 15

Wednesday 25th May 2011

Over the last couple of weeks Katie has been doing better and put on some weight. She received a blood transfusion last Thursday and that gave her a wee boost of energy. We went to see the Wiggles beforehand and although her haemoglobin was only 6.2 it didn't stop her wiggling and dancing to all her favourite songs.

Then we all headed to Portstewart for the North West, although it was a washout, it's always nice to spend time together at the caravan.

Katie's Uncle Aaron is getting married to Auntie Norelie on Monday and she is looking forward to being flower girl. I'm sure there will be plenty of photo's to show round after the big day.

She completed her first round of chemotherapy yesterday, this consists of 1.5ml per day for 3weeks. She coped well with very little sickness and thankfully her hair continues to grow.

We have another hospital visit tomorrow to check her blood counts, etc.

Please continue to pray for God to work a miracle in Katie's body.

Wednesday 25th May 2011

Katie woke up this morning and I told her she was going to Uncle Aaron & Auntie Norelie's wedding practise. Her reply - will there be dancing after the show. Lol

19 May

Busy day today. Heading to Belfast for thumb prick and to get cross matched for blood l. Then go to see the Wiggles in the Waterfront, hopefully by the time we get back to the hospital the blood will have arrived and then heading to the caravan.

14 May

Katie is up watching the little mermaid. Honestly the things she gets away with now!!!

Monday 9th May 2011

We have had a hard couple of weeks emotionally. Katie hasn't been in good form - very irritable and tired, and we've been trying to come to terms with what lies ahead for us. We noticed that she had lost a lot of weight, so yesterday we called into the hospital on our way home from Portstewart and the nurses passed a NG tube. We were at the fracture clinic today and called up to the CHU to find out some blood results which were all ok. Katie has been a bit brighter today, in better form and she seems to have more energy. We are trusting that she will continue to have a better quality of life for the foreseeable future. We had thought about going to Euro Disney as Dr. McCarthy had given us the ok, however 'Make a Wish' couldn't get insurance for Katie so we are going to see how she is doing over the next week before we make any decision about going. Thank you all for your messages of support and prayers. They are very much appreciated.

Sunday 1st May 2011

On Tuesday we were told the most devastating news any parent could hear - they are stopping Katie's treatment. The consultant looked at the scans last Friday (22nd) and knew straight away that the treatment wasn't working. We can see the lumps on her face and head, we had a fair idea what we were going to be told but it's never easy to hear that sort of news. The plan now is for Katie to receive oral chemotherapy - this is only to keep her comfortable and to give her a few more months with us. It's such a surreal feeling even contemplating Katie not being with us, she is still in good form although a bit tired but able to keep us on our toes. Please continue to pray for Katie - we know there isn't anything too big for God and He can still heal her. We acknowledge we have to accept His will whatever that may be. This is such a hard time for us all and ask you to hold the whole family up in prayer.

Thursday 14th April 2010

by Katie McKnight on Thursday, 14 April 2011 at 11:54

Last Thursday (7th) we brought Katie to clinic and she needed both a platelet and blood transfusion. So after 8hours in the day room we eventually got home. We did get to spend some time with Rachel (the 2yr old who had a liver transplant last month in Birmingham) and catch up with her parents as she was getting chemotherapy.
Our consultant has written of to Great Ormond Street to see if they suggest any other treatment for her other than what she is receiving and had told us once Katie's blood counts have recovered he will organise a mIBG scan to see what exactly is going on inside.

We were back for another checkup on Tuesday and Katie's counts are increasing. The scan is booked for next Thursday and Friday. She will also get an injection of Radioactive dye on Wednesday and Thursday morning that will light up any areas of Neuroblastoma in her body.

I cannot emphasise enough how hard this disease is to beat and it is only through God's grace that Katie will come through this. So we ask that you pray for good results from this scan and that God will continue to heal Katie.

We also got Katie's leg checked, turns out it is healing very well and the consultant is pleased with her progress. She is NOW allowed to walk around the furniture - but Katie being Katie was already doing this - it is very hard to keep her off her feet. PRAISE THE LORD.

We hope to go to the NICFC easter party on Saturday in Tullymore, Joel and Katie are really looking forward to it. It will be nice to get out as a family - hopefully the weather is agreeable.

Friday 18th February 2011

by Katie McKnight on Friday, 18 February 2011 at 15:55

Sorry for the lack of updates on Katie this week. My signal in our room on the ward is poor so i thought i'd wait until i was home.

You all know we brought Katie back into hospital on Sunday morning as i just felt she wasn't right, having spent the last couple of days mostly in bed and eventually spiking a temperature.   Later on that evening I noticed the very top of her left leg was badly swollen - 4cm of a difference to her right leg. I informed the nurses and after various Drs looked at it the consultant was called in to have a look. She said herself she didn't like the look of it and without saying it directly we knew there was a possibility of it being another mass growing. We obviously were worried sick at the thought of a tumour growing especially as she was just after a course of chemotherapy. Katie was sent for an x-ray and about an hour later the consultant came into tell us Katie's leg was broken. You cannot imagine the relief - even though her leg is BADLY broken we were so thankful we were not facing something worse.

When Katie relapsed they also found a small area around where her bone is broken and this along with so much treatment has made them weak. We cannot think of a time when she hurt her leg but the dr. said she could simply have broken it while turning as her bones are very feeble.

Her leg was put into a split that night until the orthopaedic consultant came to see her on Monday morning, and decided to put her leg into traction. She has coped remarkably well and hasn't complained once. Although on Monday night when I was getting her settled for the night she said to me "Mum I think I'll go to sleep now, will we take this off my leg?"

The consultant was in this morning and told 'Nana' that Katie's platelets have started to recover, so hopefully it won't be long before she is able for another cycle of chemo. However we know the dose will have to be reduced as they don't think katie could handle another cycle of what she had before.

Thank you for your prayers thus far, we know God is able and have to keep trusting Katie will be healed. It has been emphasised again to Gareth and I, this disease is VERY difficult beat. With that I ask you for your prayer now more than ever that Katie will be healed.

Thursday 10th February 2010

by Katie McKnight on Thursday, 10 February 2011 at 22:44

Today we were back up at clinic, the doctor doesn't feel Katie's blood counts have recovered well enough to proceed with another cycle of chemotherapy yet. We have to go back up on Tuesday to check for an improvement and hopefully find out when the next treatment will be.

The consultant said that it is VERY difficult to treat Neuroblastoma relapse as the treatment options are limited now. When we left the hospital we felt very disheartened and even though Katie is in good form it just looks as though this is going to be a really long road with no end in sight at the minute.

This afternoon Katie had a fun filled day doing crafts with Nana and watching Beauty and the Beast (her favourite DVD). She has amazing strength and still loves to laugh. She is tolerating her NG tube feeds well and is nibbling on some solid foods. She gets tired around 5pm and insists on getting her pjs on and heading up to her room. With no intention of sleeping she will make an appearance, with her cheeky grin, about 6pm to watch another DVD - most likely Beauty and the Beast.

We need you to pray that

-Katie's body will be able to cope with and respond to the treatment.

-The consultant will be guided in his decision making.

-God will work a miracle on her wee body.

On a humorous note - today when we were speaking with the consultant, Katie looked to me and said, "Mummy, look Dr. Carthy has purple socks on." Dr. McCarthy responded, "What is wrong with my socks?"

Katie replied, "Only girls wear purple!" ;-)

She certainly hasn't lost her cheeky sense of humour.

Friday 4th February 2010

by Katie McKnight on Friday, 04 February 2011 at 23:27

Katie has been in better form these past few days. Her blood counts are starting to recover and hopefully we will get out at the beginning of the week for a few days before they start another cycle of chemotherapy.

The treatment she received took a lot out of her but it is obvious she has responded well as there is a big difference in the size of her cheek.

On Monday her hair started coming out and was getting into everything so on Tuesday Katie let me shave it. Something that any parent should not have to do to their 4 yr old daughter. She was ok about it but the odd time will mention she just wants her curly hair back.

BR />

This has been such a long run in hospital. Since the 21st Nov when Katie came in for her Immunotherapy, she has been at home 22 nights. It's hard not having the family together but it will be worth it when Katie gets through this awful battle.

Monday 24th January 2011

by Katie McKnight on Monday, 24 January 2011 at 22:35

As you know I had to bring Katie back into hospital early on Sunday morning with a high temperature. She is on antibiotics and meds to bring her temperature down however it's stayed between 37.9 and 39.9c for the past two days.

She was in slightly better form today and ventured out to the play area and was painting for a time.

They are going to put up TPN as she isn't tolerating much NG tube feeds and has been sick today. Also her weight has dropped again which isn't good to see.

The amount of prayer for Katie is very encouraging and we want to thank you for this support.

Sunday 16th January 2011

by Katie McKnight on Sunday, 16 January 2011 at 15:50

So this was not the way we thought 2011 would begin.

I noticed a small lump on Katie's head on thurs 30th and later that evening noticed a small lump on her cheek and neck. We were told to come into the ward and because of new year etc we didn't get a scan until the next Thursday 6th Jan when

it was confirmed Katie had relapsed. She was sent theatre for a biopsy on the 7th where they ended up removing about the size of a plum - part of the tumour in her neck.

Since then the tumour in her cheek has grown considerably and it is obvious by looking at her where the growth is.

She has been on a chemotherapy called topotecan for the past five days. This is infused over Half an hour and fortunately she has coped with this well - without any sickness and is tolerating her tube feeds well. The consultant feels her cheek has stabilised and has stopped growing but would like to see it reducing in size over the next couple of weeks.

At the start of this week she was in awful form - very quiet and couldn't be bother with anything or anyone. Thank goodness she came round and by Thursday was back to her chatty self.

Her chemo is just down and in about an hour another two drugs will be infused over 48hrs - vincristine and doxorubicin. These will be very hard on her blood counts and sickness can be severe. Also other side effects are hair loss and a sore mouth.

Please pray for Katie that this will shrink the tumour. We are all devastated that her cancer returned even before her treatment was finished - it just shows the extent of how hard it is to fight this awful disease.

Friday 31st December 2010

by Katie McKnight on Friday, 31 December 2010 at 17:48

Be Still And Know That I Am God

Katie is getting an mIBG scan on Wednesday - this will show if there is any disease

. The X-ray and ultrasound showed swollen glands and no growth however they couldn't check her head.

She has started on antibiotics and hopefully this will sort out the glands.

The consultant hasn't given us any idea about the lump in her head - simply because he's not sure himself until he gets the results of the scan on Wednesday. It is a very worrying time for Us all, worse it's still 5 days away.

He hasn't ruled out an infection or side effect from her treatment - because she's the first one over here to receive the antibody treatment they aren't sure of all side effects. However he has said unfortunately he has seen neuroblastoma relapsing in this way before.

Please please pray that this is just a small set back and not the latter.

God hears and answers prayer and I ask you all to remember Katie at this time.

It doesn't seem to be annoying her, whatever it is, and has been in great form all day.

Thursday 16th December 2010

by Katie McKnight on Thursday, 16 December 2010 at 16:45

Katie got out of hospital this morning and is in great form. Thankfully she is tolerating her tube feeds and is also eating small amounts.

Thank you for all your kind msg and prayers, it turned out that Katie had caught a wee bug but she sorted it out and now is back to her old self.

She is enjoying watching all the christmas films at the minute and has been receiving plenty of lovely gifts.

I will keep you up-to-date how the next week goes.

It is lovely to be at home with the family together, before we head back into hospital on Sunday night for her antibody treatment. This Sunday it will be 1yr since she was diagnosed - its hard going through the memories of everything that took place from day to day (esp. this week and next). However, Katie is in a far better place now than she was this time last year.

To God Be The Glory.

Friday 10th December 2010

by Katie McKnight on Friday, 10 December 2010 at 23:10

As you know Katie is back in hospital. We came in on Tuesday night because she was being sick.

Today has been slightly better. She was sick around lunchtime but since then has nibbled on a bread roll and tolerated some water. Fluids have been running constantly however she hasn't spiked any temperature.

The consultant sent her for an ultrasound today- more for piece of mind there wasn't anything more serious to worry about - it came back all clear. Katie also lay still for it- it's taken a yr but she must be getting used to it. Now she just has to master lying for a CT scan!!!! Lol

Tomorrow I'm going to try her with some NG feeds - yesterday she didn't tolerate any feeds and today i just let her tummy rest but hopefully tomorrow (in small amounts) we will achieve something.

Many thanks for all the kind msg and prayerful support. When we came in the haematology ward was full and we were sent to another ward waiting for a bed to become free. We are still waiting - it just shows how demanding the cancer ward is. There was meant to be a bed free tonight - unfortunately there was another child just diagnosed and was sent straight to the ward. Another family's Christmas ruined and life turned upside down.

Friday 12th November 2010

by Katie McKnight on Friday, 12 November 2010 at 22:03

Katie completed her radiotherapy two weeks ago. She coped amazingly well with no side effects. She started the differentiation treatment on Monday 1st November. She takes 3 capsules of Retinoic Acid, morning and evening. She tried very hard to swallow these capsules but just couldn't so we have to squeeze the liquid out onto a spoonful of yogurt. She has until Sunday on these and then a week of rest before going into hospital for 5 days.Her face has become very dry and her lips have all cracked. This is a common side effect of these capsules.

We went to stay at Shimna Valley for a couple of nights, but Ethan is having bother with his teeth coming through and Katie just wasn't herself, we decided to come home early - back to our own beds.

Her walking continues to go from strength to strength. She still cant walk unaided but we can see her getting stronger all the time.

Please continue to pray for Katie, she has been quite irritable over the past few days, this could be another side effect, and it can be very tiring.

God has brought us through this far and we know he will continue to give us strength for what is still to come

Saturday 7th Aug 2010-08-08

We were at clinic on Tuesday and as predicted Katie needed platelets. They came fairly quickly and we were home again for 4.30pm. She had a physiotherapy session and they had her attempting to walk holding the bars at each side of her. A lot of her attempt was from upper body strength but she is able to bear her weight and move her legs slightly herself. When she is standing she needs someone with her all the time for support incase her legs go from under her but she is building up her strength gradually. She still has such a long long way to go before she will be walking but everyday we can see her getting stronger. Praise God.

We are back down at the hospital on Wednesday for a CT scan - they expect Katie to be in remission. Please pray that God has cleared her from this awful disease. We don't know what the next stage would be if she's not but we are just hoping and praying God's will answer prayer and she will be clear.
Also she will be getting a mIBG scan the following week.
The results might not be for a while but we will be sure to keep you up-to-date.

She is still nibbling slightly on food but we are largely depending on the NG feeds and thank God she is still tolerating them. She has been in fairly good form but get tired easily.

Yesterday I brought Katie over to our holiday bible club in our church for the last half hour - she needed to give Jade the bag she made her in hospital. She enjoyed seeing everyone but it really tired her out by the time we got home.
Then we all headed up to the caravan in Portstewart. She has been quite unsettled since being here - last night she didn't sleep until 5am. She just keeps shifting her hips and legs and saying her tummy is sore. Please pray tonight she gets a better nights sleep.

This time last year Katie was flowergirl for my brother David and Lynseys wedding.
Happy 1st Anniversary Uncle Dd and Auntie Lynsey.

Wednesday 30th July 2010

Yesterday we went up to clinic. Katie's blood counts were o.k. - platelets were 54 after she had a transfusion last Tuesday. They expect her to need another transfusion on Tuesday when we are up at clinic. Her neutrophils (which fight bacterial infections) were 0.75, Katie usually gets an injection called GCSF to stimulate her white cells which usually increases her cells a lot, but again we are waiting until Tuesday to see if they come up themselves.
She also had a physiotherapy session yesterday and was standing up. (obviously with help) but she is building up her muscles well and has come on leaps and bounds in the last last few

weeks. There is still a long, long way to go.

She has come through so, so much these last few weeks but there is still a smile on her face and sparkle in her eye. Praise God.

She is enjoying been home again and the fighting has already started between the siblings!!! She has started to nibble slightly on different foods and thankfully she is tolerating her tube feeds well.

We should know the date of her scans in the next couple of weeks. Please continue to pray for the results to be clear.

Monday 26th July 2010

Katie had to get her tube back in again yesterday. Nana said she tried so hard to take all her medicines and nibble at things on Saturday but the appetite just isn't there yet and she needs her tube to gain calories. This was not pleasant as it took about 4 attempts but finally got it in and she is tolerating her NG feeds.

We were meant to get home today but last night Katie had was quite restless saying her tummy was sore. So her urine is getting tested for infection.
The physio was here today and is very pleased at the progress with Katie's legs. So today Katie got both legs put into plaster of Paris to take a mould for her splints. She was not best pleased and you could have heard her up at the top of the ward. She only had to keep them on for 5 minutes until the plaster hardened. These splints are so her feet will be kept in the correct position so when she starts walking again her foot will be flat on the floor.
The progress Katie has made to date is a miracle and total answer to prayer - please continue to pray that we'll see Katie walking again.

Also her platelets are low again so she will probably get some later tonight or tomorrow. Hopefully we will see the hill of Rathfriland in the next couple of days.

Sunday 24th July 2010

Nana is in hospital with Katie for the weekend and has been telling me that Katie is in great form. Unfortunately her NG tube came out today, but the nurses decided to leave it out for a while to see if she will start eating and drinking again. I think she has started to nibble on things and has been drinking. She really doesn't want to have to get the tube in again so please, please pray that she will start to eat and drink enough so the tube can stay out.
Other than that things are still going well and there is still talk about getting home at the start of the week.

In a few week (not sure of any date) Katie will be getting all her scans and test done again and they hope she will be in remission. I just ask for all our praying friends to specifically pray that all tests and scans will be clear.
I will keep you up to date as to when these will be carried out.

Thank you for all your prayers and support so far.

Thursday 22nd July 2010

We have had a good few days. Katie was given the o.k. to come out of isolation, so we've been in the playroom making up for lost time. It was hard going being stuck in the one room for over three weeks but we got through it with God's grace and strength.

Her blood counts are doing well and they have taken her TPN down as she is tolerating her NG feeds. I am changing her feeds tomorrow to the one with more calories, so please pray that she continues to tolerate them.

There was talk if Katie keeps doing so well we MIGHT get home sometime next week. Her haemoglobin and platelets have started to stay around the same amount and hopefully next week will start to increase without having to get a transfusion. Also her white cells are increasing slowly. Please pray that these will all increase in the next few days.

The doctors feel that she has come through this treatment well and have said she is a strong wee girl - I put this all down to the amount of prayer being said for Katie and thank you for all your support through this tough time.

Thursday 15th July 2010

Katie has started to pick up a bit. She hasn't had a temperature all day and has been playing with her toys. She gets tired easy, just to be expected, and still isn't saying much. Her white cells have started to increase, which is quick but her platelets are dropping - they were 43 today. If they are lower than 30 she will get another transfusion.

She has started tolerating more of her NG feeds today and these will increase slightly everyday, with the aim that Katie will tolerate enough (800 - 900mls) so she can come off the TPN. Today she only got 80mls so we've a long way to go.

Tomorrow Gareth and I are getting out to spend a couple of days with Ethan and Joel - we haven't seen them since last Thursday.

God has answered prayers and brought Katie through this so far. Hopefully we will see changes for the better over the next week.

Tuesday 13th July 2010

Katie is doing o.k. - by that I mean doing what the Drs. expect.
She isn't really up to doing anything and lies/sleeps most of the day. The odd time she will be up watching her DVDs but hardly says a word. Her mouth and throat seem to be sore but won't let us look to see, so they have started her on some meds to help that. She has been spiking temperatures of 38 -39c all day and needed another platelet transfusion. Also her hair has started to come out again. I noticed a few on her pillow this morning but now I can see a few small bald patches. It’s amazing how quickly it comes out - I didn't think it would be but this is tough to watch happen again.

In my quite time tonight I came across this - God does not always provide explanations for your difficulties, but He does provide the promises of His Word.
I received a promise a few weeks back - 'MANY ARE THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS BUT THE LORD DELIVERS HIM OUT OF THEM ALL' Psalm 34v19
During this tough time we have to cling to his promises and remember God holds our future and WILL deliver us from this.

Please continue to pray for Katie.

Sunday 11th July 2010

This has been a tough few days for wee Katie. She is just lying in bed not really interested in doing much and sleeping most of the day. She isn't tolerating her NG tube feeds anymore and is being sick a lot.
She spiked a temperature last night and her blood counts are well down. The results are not back just yet but they expect her to need a platelet transfusion later today.
She had a fairly good night’s sleep and we just have to continue to hold her before God that she doesn't get much worse.

Thanks to all for the support and prayers.

Friday 9th July 2010

Katie didn't have the best night. Yesterday she seemed very uncomfortable and only slept about an hour the whole day despite being very tired. Last night she was still very restless, holding and rubbing her tummy. The doctor came down at 1am and put her on antibiotics thinking she might have a wee infection. Turns out she has a wee urinary tract infection and should hopefully clear up in a couple of days. Her blood counts have started to drop now and she is a bit lethargic.
She eventually fell asleep at 4am and since waking at 9.30am, she has just lay in bed - sometimes watching her DVDs but mostly wanting to lie quietly.
Up till now, except Sunday & Monday, Katie has been tolerating her NG feeds in small amounts but today I put them up and straight away she was sick so I decided to take it down. She has lost a slight bit of weight but is going on TPN later today which will prevent anymore weight loss and provide any nutrition she needs.

Please continue to pray for Katie as her count continue to drop - I'm told this is just the tip of the iceberg.

On a positive note her doctor was round yesterday morning when Mum was here and was very pleased with the progress in her legs -(saying he would love to be able to take the credit but just can't.) This is obviously an answer to the amount of prayer for Katie. She has still a long way to go before walking and we aren't just sure to the amount of feeling she has in the lower right leg but we know that God hears and answers prayers.

Sunday 4th July 2010

This morning Katie had a bath, the bathroom soaking by the time she got out - its amazing the water you can get around the place with a big syringe.
Since then she hasn't had the best day. She has started to be sick and isn't keeping anything down except wate. Still in quite good spirits though despite the sickness.

We got talking to Joel, Granda and Nana, Uncle Dd, Auntie Lynsey and Daddy via skype so that picked her up a bit.

The drs. think she has done really well getting this far without too much sickness and we know there is probably worse to come.
Please remember her in prayer - tomorrow she will get her stem cells back.

Saturday 3rd July 2010

Katie got her final dose of chemotherapy this morning. I thought she would have slept today but not a chance - she is sitting on the side of her bed playing with her toys. We are amazed at how well she is doing so far - this is a total answer to prayer.
She isn't eating very much now but is still nibbling on a small amount and has been tolerating her ng tube feeds - although yesterday was sick once so Ive reduced to rate of the feeds today.

Please continue to pray for Katie - we expect this week coming in to be hard on her as the treatment takes effect.

Monday 28th June 2010

Today had been good. Katie has been playing with her toys and watching DVDs. She is eating really well and generally been in great form.
Unfortunately she had to get her NG tube back in. This is awful to have to watch but it's better to go in now than when she is really ill. That happened at 7pm and about 15mins later she had fallen asleep still sobbing - wee darling - and hasn't woke since.

She has coped well with all 3 chemos today, hopefully this continues, her next is at 4am. She will receive treatment every 6 hrs over the next 3 days (4am, 10am, 4pm & 10pm)

Many thanks for all the prayers & msg of support.

Sunday 27th June 2010

We are settled back in to the Ward - once you're in 10 mins it feels like you've never been away. Katie has been playing with her toys all evening and is now sound asleep. Fortunately we got the room with a 'view' so I'll be able to watch everyone coming in and out of A&E :)

From talking to the nurses, this is going to be a very tough few weeks. I knew Katie was going to be isolated but I will only be allowed out for necessities. It's really all incase of infection.

I will be sure to keep updating as the days pass. Please pray for us during this time.
It was very hard leaving Joel and Ethan knowing what Katie had to endure, but at least I know who holds the future and with Gods strength and Grace we will get through this.

Psalm ch 34 v 19

Tuesday 22nd June 2010

Just a quick update to let you know Katie is not going into hospital until Sunday - treatment starts on Monday.
We've been very busy this past week enjoying our time out.
On Friday we went to see the Wiggles with katie' best friend Jade and her Mum.
We are now having a few days holiday in the caravan in Portstewart. we have been building sand castles, playing on the beach and in the park and got to Barry's today.
Back home tomorrow to pack for the next month in hospital.

We have had a great time here, the weather is great and Katie is happy and enjoying herself.
These times are so precious knowing what we have ahead of us.
Thank you so much for your encouraging msg and prayers.

Tuesday 15th June 2010

We were up at Clinic today and Katie is due to start high-dose chemotheraphy next Wednesday (23rd).
We have had over two months at home now and Katie has been in great form and her hair has grown back slightly.

High dose chemo will involve being isolated for 4 - 6weeks and, as far as I'm aware, she will be given chemo from Thursday - Sunday 4times a day each taking 2hrs to infuse. On Monday she will get her second drug which only takes 15mins, then her stem cells will be infused again a couple of days after that.
There are severe side effects with this treatment and I ask that you remember Katie in prayer.

We are so encouraged by Katie's progress so far. Just this past week she has begun to crawl, Nana put her up to bed one night and found her making her way to the stairs about 10minutes later - she's up to all the mischief of the day now. We are still not sure exactly what feeling she has in her feet but signs are encouraging also. We praise God for this and continue to pray for complete healing.

Wednesday 9th June 2010

We are just on our way home from hospital. Katie had a mIBG scan and will be getting another tomorrow morning. This will determine whether she will receive additional cycles of chemo or straight into her high dose.

She continues to be in great form. We will know hopefully on Tuesday what the next step will be and when everything is due to start.

Please continue to pray for Katie and for complete healing.

Tuesday, 01 June 2010 at 12:31

Katie has been in great form and has recovered from her operation remarkably well.
We were up for a check up at clinic today and they were pleased with her progress. Her wound is healing well but the Dr. wants to wait a couple of weeks to let it heal completely before starting into the next treatment.

She lost a slight bit of weight from her operation but is eating well again. We will be using the next couple of weeks to build her up in preparation for the chemotherapy to come.

Please continue to hold Katie up in prayer, God has kept his hand upon her thus far.

Sunday, 23 May 2010 at 10:35

Katie had a really good nights sleep and also enjoyed a slice of pizza, garlic bread and potato wedges last night.
The drs. are pleased at Katie's progress and now we are on our way home less than a week since the operation.

She was so excited about getting home she kept telling the nurses in Barbour ward to hurry up. Although saying that she had to say bye to the nurses in the Haematology Ward.

She is not due back in to the clinic until Tuesday week, so it will give us a time for rest at home. Thank you all for your support in every way. God's hand has been upon Katie thus far. Please continue to pray for Katie's speedy recovery so her next treatment can go ahead.
Updated about a week ago

Thursday, 20 May 2010 at 10:59
Katie's surgery was successful. They were able to remove all the tumour around her bowel and bladder. It wasn't attached to them as they first thought, it was around the blood vessel but was all removed without complication. There is Neuroblastoma higher up but the surgeons felt it was too risky to touch it.

She came out of theatre after 6hrs and wasn't ventilated so was moved down to the ward after 24hrs observation in intensive care.

She had a restful night, although at 3am thought it was a good idea to wake me up for a story and a chat. Usually I'd be telling her to get back to sleep but this time I just thanked God she was wanting a story. Saying that I eventually got her back to sleep arond 4ish.

This morning she is in great form, playing with her Barbies and watching Mary Poppins.
She is slightly swollen from all the fluid but that should go down in a couple of days and has started her usual banter with the nurses.

Praise God for answering prayers and bringing Katie through successfully.

Sunday, 16 May 2010 at 10:58

As you know, Katie's surgery was cancelled again last Thursday. Before we left hospital another surgeon arranged the operation for this Tuesday. Everything will go ahead as long as there is a guaranteed bed in intensive care on Tuesday for Katie after surgery. This is something that cannot be booked and we just have to hope there is one free.

It was so disappointing that the surgery was cancelled for the second time. It's so emotionally tiring - hopefully God willing everything will go ahead on Tuesday. After talking to the surgeons we are under no illusion that Katies surgery is straight forward. They will be operating very close to major blood vessels and various other organs - please pray that God will keep his hand on my little girl throughout the operation and guide the surgeons.

Joel (my wee boy who's 2) dropped my iPhone last night and now the screen is completely White. I'm using my Mums at the minute. So once back in hospital I'll not be able to update facebook as easily, but I'll try and get access to the Internet when I can.

Please remember Katie this week- it's going to be a really hard week for us all. Psalm 46 has continually been with me over the past couple of weeks that we lean on. -Be still and know that I am God.

Monday, 10 May 2010 at 21:35

Katies surgery on Thursday - please pray this goes ahead

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Friday, 07 May 2010 at 22:38

Since Katie didn't get her surgery yesterday we decided to make the most of it and have a fun day out to the Zoo. This was their first time at the Zoo and we all had a great day. Katie totally exhausted herself as she slept 31/2 hrs when we came home.

Although we are disappointed Katie didn't get her operation yesterday we know Gods timing is perfect and just have to trust in Him. Hopefully it will happen on Monday or Tuesday.

Thursday, 06 May 2010 at 09:51

Change of plan - Katie isn't getting her operation today. The surgeon was up all night with another emergency and didn't feel he could perform such a major operation when he wasn't fully rested.

It will not take place now until Monday or Tuesday. Another awful 5 days of waiting.

Wednesday, 05 May 2010 at 23:30

Thank you so much for all the MSG of encouragement and support for tomorrow. It's been a really tough night emotionally, but we need to keep leaning on God for our strength and I know He will get us through tomorrow.

Today Katie was in brilliant form. Keeping all the nurses in chat, I think she was showing off a bit - she was great craic. She was out in the play area nearly all day causing sone sort of havoc. I think every barbie in the toy cupboard has been bathed twice.
Nana brought Joel and Ethan down to the hospital and we all went for a coffee and scone. We also were out for a few walks to get some fresh air. She is sound asleep now and will be in theatre by 9am tomorrow.

Tuesday, 04 May 2010 at 17:09

Great news - enough stem cells were collected today which means tomorrow is a free day before surgery on Thursday.

The stem cell involved blood being taken out of Katie's central line (Mr Wiggly) into a big machine which separates the cells. Cells are collected and the blood goes back in through a needle in her arm.

Thanks for all your prayers.

Sunday, 02 May 2010 at 22:53

This has been very much a day of mixed emotions. We are relieved it's time now for Katie to go back into hospital and progress with her treatment. On the other hand, it's awful to think of what she has to go through. All we can do is take every day as it comes.

We go back into the ward tomorrow evening to have Katie's stem cells harvested on Tuesday and maybe Wednesday (depending on the amount they collect on Tues). If they feel enough cells still haven't been collected by then more will be harvested on Thursday, resulting in her surgery being put back to another day.

Please pray
1. Surgery will go ahead on Thursday and everything will go to plan - that the surgeons will be able to remove all of the tumour.

2. That God will guide the hands of the surgeons and there will be no complications.

3. Also your prayers for us (Mummy & Daddy) and the family circle. We have been told surgery will take between 8-12 hrs. So Thursday is going to be an extra long day for us and we need God's strength and grace to get through it.

Thank you so much for all the lovely MSG of encouragement so far, we read and appreciate every single one.

Tuesday, 27 April 2010 at 17:02

Today we found out Katie's surgery is on Thursday 6th May. We will be going into hospital on Monday night and she will be getting her stem cells harvested on Tuesday and Wednesday.
We have been waiting for over a month now since her last chemo and we are relieved things are starting to progress again.

Katie continues to be in great form and is eating well. She has started to enjoy using her wheelchair and is able to manoeuvre about the house.

Please continue to pray for Katie as surgery draws nearer.

Thursday, 22 April 2010 at 13:01

Katie has been at home now for nearly 3 weeks and is in brilliant form. She continues to eat well and is getting stronger by the day.

I haven't much more news at the moment.
We were down at clinic today and have been told that her surgery will be the week beginning 3rd May - still waiting to hear the date. Her blood counts are back to normal and they are really pleased at how upbeat she is. Usually when we are going to clinic, Katie has to get her blood counts done which involves a thumb prick. Today is the first day she didn't scream and cry and was asking Tony all about her blood. She even told her consultant (Dr. McCarthy) that he was her best friend - this is definitely a turn up for the books.

Thanks again to all those who supported the breakfast on Saturday morning. It raised £3,600 and I think the total is now nearer £4,000.

Please continue to pray for Katie, especially for her surgery - that the surgeons will be able to remove as much as possible and hopefully all of the tumour.

Me and Jade

Thursday, 15 April 2010 at 18:22

Sorry I haven't updated facebook earlier but we really only spoke to the Dr. today as we had to wait until the results of all the scans had been confirmed.
Katie got a CT scan on Wed. 31st March, a mIBG on Thurs. 8th and Fri. 9th April and a MRI scan on Mon. 12th April.

We were up at clinic today and saw all the scans, starting from the MRI taken on the 20th December. As the saying goes - ignorance is bliss! I was shocked to see how extensive the cancer was initially. What I hadn't realised was the cancer was through her bones, from her skull to her legs. As well as a large part behind her stomach were it had originated from. Now, though the tumour has shrunk and her arms and legs are completely clear, it can be seen in her skull, left jaw and behind the stomach.
She will be going for surgery in the next couple of weeks - the problem with Neuroblastoma is that it doesn't grow like other tumours in a lump, it grows around and through the likes of the spine. This means the surgeons will be taking away bits and pieces of the tumour and won't be able to take away just one large lump. Therefore surgery could last a long time - depending on how much they can take away.
Prior to this they hope to harvest Katie's stem cells, at the moment they are waiting for her blood counts to increase before continuing.

We have been home now since Fri. 2nd April and Katie continues to be in brilliant form. She is eating well and has started to put on a little weight. She can be crafty though, when she doesn't want to do something or eat a particular food she will say "Mummy, I don't feel very well." 2 seconds later she will be laughing and messing about as usual.

Although she is in good form and so far has responded well to treatment - Katie has such a long, long road ahead of her. She got a new wheelchair yesterday that has pink flowers on the wheels, which she is chuffed about.

We continue to pray that God will guide the hands of the surgeons and continue to heal Katie completely.

Tuesday 6th April 2010

Katie got out of hospital on Friday and has been doing really well. She is in great form and has been eating really well, she even got to spend time with her best friend Jade.

On Saturday she was sick (too many raisins just before a NG feed) and her NG tube came out. So I rang into the ward and we agreed if she was eating and drinking well enough it could stay out until we came in for a blood count on Monday. Since its came out she has been eating normally - I'll be surprised if she hasn't put on weight.

We went into the Ward on Monday and it turned out her platelets were slightly low - 28 - usually a transfusion is given if platelets are less then 30. Dr. McCarthy was happy enough to leave her until we go in again on Wednesday to see if she needs a transfusion.

Katie is getting a mIBG scan on Thursday.
mIBG stands for 'meta-iodobenzylguanidine'. This substance is naturally taken up by neuroblastoma cells. mIBG contains radioactive material and is given by injection into the blood stream. When mIBG accumulates in the neuroblastoma cells, the radioactive material can be detected by means of a special type of x-ray machine called a gamma camera scanner. This type of scan is a very useful diagnostic tool, giving a complete picture of the whereabouts of any tumour cells in the body. (taken from The Neuroblastoma Society - A Booklet for Parents. I would never remember all that information :))

We are still waiting to hear whether or not Katie needs surgery from the CT scan and confirmed results of the bone marrow.

As i said before - Katie is keeping well and has been in great form - this morning she ate a full weetabix and then asked for porridge. She still has that wee bright spark about her and continues to keep us smiling and laughing. She still has such a long, long, hard road ahead of her and we need as much prayer for Katie as possible.

Katie's Auntie Mary is running a Charity Breakfast in Rathfriland Young Farmers Hall on Saturday 17th April between 10am - 1pm. All proceeds will be going to the Haematology Unit at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Everybody is welcome!
A few have asked about sending a donation as they can't make the breakfast, you can forward it to myself or Mary (McKnight) - if you don't already have our address send me a email.

Wednesday 31st March 2010

Just been told that Katie has responded well to treatment and the tumour has shrunk. We still have to wait for the bone marrow results and for the surgeons look at the ct scan to see if she needs surgery.

We also have to wait until Katies blood counts are back to normal before her stem cells can be harvested - they would have liked to have done this next week but the Dr. doesn't think her counts will be ready and will probably have to wait another couple of weeks.

So far these are positive results, however Katie still has so much treatment to go through to get rid of this awful cancer.
Please continue to pray for her.

Tuesday 30th March 2010

Katie is in bed and sound asleep. She has been in great form the past couple of day. The TPN, blood and platelets def did the job. She still isn't really eating, maybe the odd bite here and there but def not enough to live off.

The big scans are tomorrow morning - the letter says to be there at 8am but we don't like being late so decided to arrive last Friday ;)
I'm glad our future is in God's hands and all we can do is pray and trust in Him. Thank you so much to all who have been praying for Katie. It's amazing how many people have heard of Katie, most of whom we don't know but still pray for her. Times can be very hard watching your child having to go through this nightmare and it is reassuring to know Gods people are holding her and our family up in prayer.

Remember Katie tomorrow as she goes for her scans and as we await the results

Saturday 27th March 2010

We brought Katie back into hospital yesterday afternoon. She hadn't been eating at home and wasn't tolerating her NG feeds at all. She also was very tired and had no energy. When we got her blood counts back it turned out she needed blood and platelets. She also spiked a temperature of 38.4c, so it's aswell we came up.

She has been put on TPN today which will do her good, got her platelets earlier and her blood is being transfused at the minute.

Hopefully she'll be feeling better in the next couple of days.

It's only since I have been in this ward that I've realised how important it is to donate blood. Katie has received countless transfusions in the last 3 months and she is only one child. I would encourage anyone who can to donate blood as it is greatly needed.

Please continue to remember Katie in prayer as we have her scans on Wednesday.

Also I'd like to remind you that there will be a charity breakfast at the young farmers hall in Rathfriland on the 17th April @ 10am-1pm. All proceeds will be donated to the Haematology Unit at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

Tuesday 23rd March 2010

Katie finished her 8th and last cycle of chemo on Friday night and we got home on Sunday morning. She has been very tired and hasn't been eating - on the plus side she has started to tolerate her NG Feeds. I haven't been pushing it though because it wouldn't take much to make her sick but hopefully once the chemo starts to wear off she will tolerate more.

We were down at clinic today and it turned out she needed platelets -thankfully they didn't take too long to come over from the City Hospital and we were home again at 5pm

As I said before, Katie is now finished this session of chemotherapy and will be getting a CT scan, bone marrow scan and mIBG scan next week. This will determine if she will need more surgery, then her stem cells will be harvested depending on the bone marrow being clear.
After her 4th cycle she had a bone marrow scan and the results were very positive however that was only a small section, so this will be done in greater detail.
After this she will go into high dose chemotherapy where she will be isolated for at least 4 weeks.
The time frame and dates etc., of the above all hangs on whether or not Katie needs surgery and how long it takes her to recover from it.

Please remember us in the next couple of weeks as we wait for the results of all these scans. I'm aware everyone will be wanting to know if Katie's progress and will post her results as soon as we know.

God has been with us thus far and has given us the strength everyday to deal with this nightmare. Please continue to pray for Katie as she still has such a long road of treatment ahead of her.

Tuesday 16th March 2010

On Sunday night Katie had a very restless night, so at 6.30am i took her temp-it was 38.4c. I rang the ward and was told to bring her in. It turned out her counts were very low. She needed blood and platelets. Yesterday her temp kept spiking, reaching 39.6c last night. She was given neurofen and is on an antibiotic now, her temperature is back down again. As long as her temp stays down her next cycle of chemo will be on Thursday.

Sunday 14th March 2010
We have been home now since Thursday morning.
Katie has been very tired but is getting a bit brighter each day as the last cycle of chemo wears off.
She hasn't been eating and isn't tolerating her NG Feeds but anything she does nibble on stays down. Last night we decided to try her NG feeds overnight at a very slow speed but at 12.30am I got the whole lot back again. This was just while I was putting a clean nappy on Ethan, it was a juggling match trying to sort Katie out and trying to get the nappy on.

She has been in good enough form though, yesterday Uncle Aaron and Auntie Norelie came to visit and they had fun in the play room. Today Uncle David and Auntie Lynsey are coming so i'm sure there will be more good times.

She has eaten some weetabix and drank milk this morning, so hopefully this will continue throughout today.

Yesterday Auntie Mary organised a collection outside the Milestone in Rathfriland for the Haematology Unit in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (Katie's Ward). They raised £1,500. We would like to thank her for doing this and also to everyone who contributed to the collection.
She has also organised a coffee morning in April to be held in the young farmers hall, Rathfriland - more details will be posted nearer the time. All proceeds will be going again to the Haematology Ward.

Uncle Aaron and Auntie Norelie with Katie, Joel & Ethan

Wednesday 10th March 2010
Wednesday, 10 March 2010 at 22:54
Katie has finished her 7th cycle of chemo. She has been very tired but still in great form. She isn't eating but is asking for everything under the sun, by the time I get her something she doesn't want it or the smell is enough to turn her.

We are hopefully getting home tomorrow for a few days, this all depends on her blood counts, etc
The last time she got this cycle we had to come back in to hospital as it hit Katie's blood counts hard and she spiked temperatures. Please pray this time her counts won't be badly affected and we get to spend longer at home.

Her 8th treatment is next Thursday -18th, this will be the final cycle of this session of chemotherapy.

We have such a long road ahead of us regarding Katie's treatment, but God has answered prayer giving us the grace and strength we need for each day.

Please continue to remember Katie in prayer - 1 - that she will be healed from
the tumour.
- 2 - she will receive the feeling back in her legs and will be able to walk again.

Sunday 7th March 2010

Yesterday at 22:07

TODAY... Where do I start.

After a good nights sleep Katie woke up at 6.30am and decided it was time I was awake too. She was in great form, she ate a little breakfast and had sone tea. The dr. allowed us to take her home for the day.

When we got home Nana told us that Joel wasn't putting any weight on the leg that had been in plaster-he would only crawl. So Daddy and Auntie Lynsey brought him to A&E to be told it hadn't healed completely and that another plaster would have to go on. Hopefully that'll only be on for another week.

Katie though had a great day at home, she got to bath Ethan and give him his bottle. Of course by 7pm she was absolutely exhausted and wasn't long falling asleep on the way back to the hospital. It was great to have her home and to spend a few hours together.

She starts her 7th cycle tomorrow. Please remember her in prayer this week as the last time she got this 'C' cycle we ended up having to bring her back into hospital with high temperatures and it seemed to hit her blood counts badly.

Ethan is doing well and Katie just loved spending time with him. Hopefully we will get another few days at home after this cycle of chemo. Please pray her sickness stays away and she tolerates her tube feeds again.

Updated 16 hours ago

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Wednesday, 03 March 2010 at 21:51

I am just home from spending the day in with Katie.

She was in fantastic form, we had been painting, colouring in and making necklaces with beads all day. By the time Nana came back in she was sound asleep - hopefully that'll be her for the night.

She has started to show a bit more interest in food again. Nibbling on small bits and pieces, but every bite counts. Also Nana has started her on the odd cup of tea and coffee (very weak and milky tea and coffee) which she thinks is great because she is a big girl now like Nana.

Fortunately she wasn't sick today - which is a real answer to prayer. Please continue to pray that the sickness will stop and she will be able to tolerate her tube feeds again once they commence. She is still being fed via TPN which is through her central line. This has done her the world of good as it has given her wee tummy a rest, however will probably be stopped once the Drs. feel she can tolerate food again.

This week Katie has been in a standing aid. It supports her knees and bottom to enable her to stand up. She thinks this is great and loves being in it. I am yet to witness this as Nana has been with her and but have seen pictures. We still continue to pray that God will heal her legs completely - all we can do is have faith and learn to wait on Him as His timing is perfect.

Please remember the whole family at this time. I will be heading back into the hospital at the weekend - meaning leaving Joel and Ethan again. It will be hard leaving as Ethan is not yet 2 weeks old and Joel just got his leg out of plaster - I feel their Mummy should be looking after them. On the other hand - Katie needs her Mummy too. I'm sure between Daddy and Nana

Beatty the boys will be spoilt rotten and won't even miss me!!

Thanks for all the help everyone has given and offered. Our freezer at the minute is coming down with lovely meals. Also more importantly, the prayer support is greatly appreciated and we are so touched at the amount of people remembering Katie. Please continue to do so.

Updated on Wednesday
Sunday 28th February 2010
Sunday, 28 February 2010 at 18:25
We are just on our way home from seeing Katie.
We were allowed to take her out for the day, so we went to my Aunts for lunch as Katie's Great Granny Grey was there who she hasn't seen since Christmas.
Unfortunately Katie wasn't feeling very well so Gareth and I brought her back to the ward. She was very tired and is still being sick. It is nearly 2 wks now since the sickness started - it's heartbreaking to watch. They are putting it down to a viral bug, she hasn't got a temp and all other tests have came back clear. Please continue to pray this will pass soon.

... the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5 v 16
Updated about a week ago

Friday 26th February 2010
Fri at 20:11
Yesterday Katie started her 6th cycle of chemo and will be on this until Saturday afternoon. She is still feeling sick and I would ask all our praying friends to specifically seek God concerning this. Although she is in good enough form she has now had to be fed intravenously as she hasn't been tolerating anything since last Wednesday. She won't get home until she starts eating and drinking again, and at this time we would love to have her home as a new family of 5.

This week has brought a mixture of emotions for us. On Monday Ethan was born and we were thrilled to bits but it has been so hard coming home and leaving Katie in hospital. It nearly broke our hearts. Joel of course is always on hand though to keep us smiling with his cheeky grin.
Nana Beatty has also been one in a million - she has gone into hospital to take care of Katie. Gareth and I could not do without her at this time.

Fortunately Ethan is very content so far meaning I'm getting a 'decent' nights sleep and starting to feel human again. May this continue!

Updated on Friday
Wednesday 24th February 2010
Wednesday, 24 February 2010 at 13:27
I just wanted to show off a picture of my new baby brother Ethan. He came to visit me yesterday before heading home.

Katie & Ethan

He brought me a lovely present too - i don't know how he knew i wanted the Peppa Pig Princess Castle.
Updated on Wednesday
Sunday 21st February 2010
Sunday, 21 February 2010 at 20:27
It was a particularly hard day in the ward - two very young children lost their battle to cancer today. It really makes you realise we don't know what is around the next corner. At least our future is in God's hands and these two children are in being cradled in His arms which is far

better.
Please pray for these two families that they feel Gods comfort and strength.

Katie is still being very sick, hasn't been able to keep any food or fluids down. She is in great form though and loves playing with all her toys - she has Nana in the play room with her most of the day painting and colouring in.

Her white cell count is very low, please pray these will increase over the next few days so her chemo won't be delayed on Thursday. Also she has to get more platelets tonight as they are low aswell.

She is being such a brave girl but it still breaks our hearts to see our wee princess so sick and not being able to walk. She has also started meantioning her legs and the fact that she can't walk - for her this is the main thing that is wrong, as the term 'cancer' to a child of 3years old is much the same as telling them they have a cut on their knee.

Joels leg is still in the heavy plaster - but again it doesn't slow him down any.
As for Mummy - the count down is on. Not long to go until Baby no.3 arrives. Please pray for a safe delivery and no complications.

Please also remember the rest of the family in prayer.

Updated last Sunday
Saturday 20th February 2010
Saturday, 20 February 2010 at 17:12
Katie is still in hospital, she isn't keeping any food down but the dr. seems to think it is just the effects of her last chemo cycle and not a bug.
There is a wee bug going about as a couple of others on the ward have it.

Please pray that Katie will start to tolerate food again, as soon as she stops being sick and is eating she will get home again.

She is in good form at the minute and hasn't had a temperature since Thursday evening.

Her next cycle of chemo isn't due until Thursday.

Please continue to pray, especially for her sickness to stop and also for the feeling in her lower body to return.

Wednesday 17th February 2010

Wed at 20:17

Back in hospital tonight.
Katie has been very sick today, hasn't been able to keep anything down, including water.
We rang the ward and the dr. told us to come in incase she was dehydrated and to check her blood counts.

It may just be the effect of the chemo as it only finished yesterday at 4pm. She isn't running a temperature so hopefully it is just a matter of getting fluids and bloods.

Please pray that the sickness stops and Katie feels much better in the morning.
Written on Wednesday

Tuesday 16th February 2010

Tuesday, 16 February 2010 at 21:14

Today we got even more good news!
The radiologists couldn't see anything abnormal on the ultrasound scan.
In other words they couldn't see any tumour, but did emphasise that ultrasounds have limitations and do not pick up the same detail as an MRI or CT scan. We can't be sure the tumour is away until we get a more detailed scan but either way she has responded well to her treatment so far.

She won't be getting a CT or MRI scan until the end of March - after cycle 8.

Katie finished her 5th cycle today and although she has been quite tired, she has been keeping relatively well.

She is still full of chat and has really turned into Miss Chatterbox.

Please continue to pray - even if the tumour is away, Katie will still have to complete all her treatment to minimise the chance of the cancer returning.

It just shows that God hears and answers prayer and we have to give Him all the honour and Glory.
Written on Tuesday

Monday 15th February 2010

Monday, 15 February 2010 at 19:11

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE.

The Dr. has just told us that Katie's bone marrow looks like a normal bone marrow. She couldn't see any bad cells, whereas when Katie was scanned eight weeks ago it was very clear it had bad cells.

This is such an answer to prayer.

Tomorrow she will be going for an ultrasound to see how the tumour has and is responding to treatment.

She is on her 5th cycle of chemo now until 11 pm and it will go back up for another 4 hrs tomorrow.

Please continue to pray.

JAMES 5 v 15
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.

Sunday 14th February 2010
Sunday, 14 February 2010 at 17:08

We have made it to Sunday now and have had a great week at home with Katie. She has been in brilliant form, ok so she has had her moments but def the good times have far out-weighed the bad.

We bought her a Peppa Pig house and Joel the holiday set, they have played with them on the floor for ages - this is what the physio has been trying to get her to do to help improve her upper body and get used to moving about without the use of her legs. She has definitely got more strength and confidence in her upper body than a month ago.
She seems to think now she needs every item of peppa pig to complete her set ;) the rocket ship, play park, car, etc etc

Still no movement in her legs although we think there is slight sensation. It's just so hard to tell as drs. are concentrating on the her tumour.

She is going for a bone marrow scan tomorrow to see exactly how the chemotherapy is working. We are half way through this first session of chemo and can only pray that God heals her bone marrow so stem cells can be harvested before the high dose treatment. If it isn't clear by cycle 8 we have to go on different treatment to try and clear the bone marrow before continuing on treatment.
We would appreciate if people wouldn't contact us to find out about the results of the scan, as we probably won't know anything until the end of the week. I will post the outcome once we know so you can continue to hold Katie up in prayer, whatever the results.

She is also due her 5th cycle of chemo tomorrow, so please pray she will respond well and temperatures and bloods will all stay normal.

Thanks again for all your support.

Thursday 11th February 2010

Share

Thurs at 14:06

Katie has had a good time at home since Sunday. She has been in good form and has been sleeping all night evey night. She has been fighting with Joel over their toys which is normal. We are finding it awfully hard to get her NG feeds into her without being sick and she really isn't eating a lot.

Today we had to bring Katie back into hospital for clinic. Mum came with me so she will know where to go when I'm at home with the baby.
Although knowing her she will still get lost ;)
It turned out Katie's platelets are low again so we are just waiting for the platelets to come over from the city hospital so she can get her transfusion. Once through we will be able to go home again as long as she doesn't spike any temperatures.

Joel was back at the fracture clinic on Tuesday but didn't get the heavy plaster off, just got it reinforced as it had got slightly soft around his foot from walking on it. It hasn't slowed him down any and still likes to get up to all his badness - a typical 2 year old boy.

Baby no. 3 is still hanging in. Still 2 weeks to go - I'm due on the 27th Feb.

Please continue to pray

- for complete healing for Katie, specifically for her bone marrow, as it is only approx 6 weeks until they will be going to harvest her stem cells. That she will start eating better and that she won't be sick from her NG feeds.

- that Joel's leg will heal quicker than expected.

- physical and emotional strength when the baby comes.

I know who holds the future and he'll guide me with His hands.
With God things don't just happen everything by Him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow, with our problems large and small.
I'll trust our God of miracles, give to Him my all.

Written on Thursday

Sunday 7th February 2010

Share

Sunday, 07 February 2010 at 15:42

Katie has been allowed home from hospital today after getting platelets transfusion this morning. So we decided to surprise Nana and Granda in Randalstown for lunch as Uncle Aaron and Auntie Norelie were home and Uncle David and Auntie Lynsey were over.

We are now at the half way point through her first lot of chemotherapy and she has coped remarkably well.
She got on well with her 4th cycle of chemo, wasn't too sick and was in fairly good form which is an answer to prayer.

She didn't have much of an appetite yesterday but other days she has been nibbling on different foods. She even ate 1/2 a slice of daddys dominos pizza on Friday night and a couple of slices of Nanas Sunday roast meat today.

Please pray that Katie will be well enough to be at home for a few days. That her temperature will stay down and her blood count won't decrease. Also that her bone marrow will be clear and that her tumour is responding well to her treatment.

Also remember Joel, he is going on Tuesday for a check up at the fracture clinic for his leg - although the heavy cast hasn't slowed him down it would be great to get a lighter one on.

Thanks so much for all your kind msg and txt, it is overwhelming the amount of support and prayer Katie is receiving.

Written last Sunday

Thursday 4th February 2010
Share
Thursday, 04 February 2010 at 14:16
Such an answer to prayer...
Katie is able to continue with her 4th cycle of chemo today, the drs. feel she is well enough to go ahead.

Nana rang to say she has been out baking with the play specialist today, she doesn't seem to be missing Mummy at all :(and has been in good form.

Thanks again for all your prayers and support.
Updated about a week ago

Wednesday 3rd February 2010
Share
Wednesday, 03 February 2010 at 21:08
Today Nana Beatty has gone in to stay overnight with Katie to let Mummy have a break from hospital and she seems to be loving having her there.

Unfortunately Katie will not be getting her 4th cycle of chemo tomorrow as her white blood cell count is too low. She is in good form but has been sick with her tube feeds and is not eating or drinking very well.
Everyday she has been in the playroom painting, colouring in and making birthday cards for her wee friends at home, she really loves the glitter and likes to get carried away with it. :)

Joel on the other hand a dealing with the cast on his leg remarkably well. It has slowed him down a bit but still a wee monkey and always looking for things to get up to - typical 2 yr old.

Please continue to pray that Katie's treatment will not be delayed too much and that her eating and drinking will improve.

Updated about a week ago

Monday 1st February 2010

Share

Monday, 01 February 2010 at 16:32

They say it never rains but it pours!
Today Joel slipped at home and mum brought him up to A&E here at the RBHSC. Turned out he has fractured his leg between his knee and ankle and has a plaster on right up to the top of his leg.

Katie is in fair form, is receiving blood at the minute and her temperature has stayed down.
We brought Katie up to the top of the ward to see Joel but I think it annoyed her to see him with a sore leg.

They say everything happens in 3's - all I need now is to go into labour :)

Please continue to pray and add Joel's leg to your list too.
Updated about a week ago

Sunday 31st January 2010

Share

Sunday, 31 January 2010 at 15:50

Last night Katie had a high temperature, so we called the ward and told us to give her paracetamol and keep an eye on it. It dropped down and we got a few hours sleep.

Today she has been very tired and was sick this morning so we had to come back to the hospital ward for a check. Once we got here Katie had another high temperature so we are staying in and she is starting on antibiotics.
Updated about a week ago

Saturday 30th January 2010

Share

Saturday, 30 January 2010 at 22:09

After being told we could go home on Thursday we eventually got home at 7pm. Katie had to get blood as her counts were low.

Yesterday she was in great form, playing with lots of different toys and nibbling.
Today she has had less energy and feeling a bit under the weather. Hasn't eaten anything at all but was able to keep all the tube feeds down.

Please continue to pray specifically for Katie's bone marrow, that it will be clear from cancer at the end of the eight cycles of chemo, and praise God for the way He has been helping us to cope as a family.

We appreciate all the interest and prayer support that we have had for Katie.

James 5 v 15

Updated about 2 weeks ago

Wednesday 27th January 2010

Share

Wednesday, 27 January 2010 at 22:35
Katie has finished her 3rd cycle of chemo and so far has been in great form. She hasn't been sick and even has nibbled on didferent bits and pieces.

Her hair has started to come out very quickly now but she is happy at the thought of being like Daddy.

Hopefully if Katie keeps well we will be allowed home again for a few days.

Please pray specifically for Katies bone marrow - that it will be clear from cancer by the end of her 8th cycle so stem cells can be harvested before the high dose chemotherapy.

Thanks again for all your support and prayers.

Written about 2 weeks ago

Sunday 24th January 2010

Share
Sunday, 24 January 2010 at 22:13
We are back now in hospital. Katie enjoyed her time at home although I think at times she felt very frustrated because she wasn't able to get up and run about as normal.

She was sick this morning after I gave her her tube feed, however has nibbled on different bits and pieces throughout the day. She got weighed when we came back in and she only had lost about 1lb while at home. Please pray she will continue to eat and her appetiate will increase.

At present she is getting a blood transfusion and is sound asleep. Please pray that she will get a peaceful nights sleep as the last few haven't been the best.

She has been in good form again today which is a real answer to prayer. The whole situation is very hard to take in, but when Katie is in good form it makes the burden a little easier.

Last night Nana Beatty was putting Katie to bed and told her that God could make her all better and also could give her feeling back in her legs. When Nana asked Katie if she thought He could she replied yes. Then Katie prayed a simple childs prayer asking God to make her better and make her legs better also.
This reminds us that God can hear and answer a childs prayer aswell. Then tonight as Gareth and I were sitting in her room in hospital, out of the blue Katie said that God was going to make her better. This was very special to hear her say and especially when she is only 3 years old.

Plese continue to pray
James 5 v 15
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.

Written about 2 weeks ago

Saturday 23rd January 2010

Share

Saturday, 23 January 2010 at 14:44

After quite a restless night, Katie has been in good form most of the day. She even has been painting with Nana Beatty and playing hide and seek with both Grandas. Of course they were the ones trying to unsuccessfully hide behind objects much smaller than them, with Katie counting and looking for them from her seat.

She has managed to keep all her feeds down today so far and hopefully will nibble on a few things throughout the rest of the day.

We are heading back to hospital tomorrow afternoon so Katie can receive blood before she starts her 3rd cycle of chemo on Monday.

Please keep praying for Katie that she won't be sick during her chemo cycle. The Lord has already been hearing and answering prayer as we were not expecting to have Katie at home more than a couple of nights. We have been home since Monday.

Thanks again for all your thoughts and prayers so far.

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Updated 19 hours ago

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Thanks again for all your thoughts and prayers so far.
Written about a week ago
Thursday 21st January 2010

Thursday, 21 January 2010 at 16:44
Today is Joels 2nd birthday, so before heading to the hospital we had birthday cake and spent the morning singing and blowing out candles.

I'm pleased to say Katie was sent home again from hospital. Her blood is low but the Drs. are happy to leave her until Sunday to give her blood before her 3rd cycle of chemo starts on Monday.

Please pray that she is able to stay at home until Sunday and that she doesn't need to go into hospital because of low blood or high temperatures. Also that she will have a restful nights sleep and will be in good form.
Updated about a week ago

Tuesday 19th January 2010

Tuesday, 19 January 2010 at 11:33
Katie got home yesterday from hospital hopefully until Thursday. She is coping well, eating and drinking a little and is in good form.
Unfortunately she was sick this morning after being on her feeds all night.

Many have asked about coming to visit but the drs. have said no visitors at present.

Mum gave katie a hair cut today to prepare for hair loss which is expected to happen in the next week.

Thanks again for all your prayers
- James 5 v 15 -
Written about 2 weeks ago

Saturday 16th January 2010

Saturday, 16 January 2010 at 14:02
Katie has been on chemo now since 6.30pm last night. She has been in brilliant form and hasn't been sick. Her eating has improved and even asked for tomato soup last night at 9.30pm.
The doctor was pleased that she hadn't been sick as the drug she is getting apparently makes most children very sick. Please continue to pray that Katie will get through this cycle without any sickness and that it will work in her wee body.
Updated about 2 weeks ago

Friday 15th January 2010

Friday, 15 January 2010 at 12:27
Today has so far started off well. Katie had been tube fed from 7pm last night until 9am this morning and wasn't sick - that's the first morning so far.
We have been out of bed and in the play room playing with play doh and paints, so she seems in quite good form althoughstill just not herself.
Her 2nd cycle of chemo is starting this afternoon and will be up until Sunday afternoon. Please pray she won't be too sick during and after the chemo and that she will starting eating and drinking more. The less she eats and drinks means more tube feeds.