

**Limited Time...**

Tuesday, 10-Nov-98 07:44:25

**Message:**

209.64.191.7 writes:

I decided to try to get this on early this morning. Penny was up 10-15mins during every hour last night. She is having bowel problems. I am not sure if her body is trying to empty itself or what. She hasn't eaten anything that would cause it. Needless to say, I'll be taking a nap today.

With the drastic turn Penny took over the weekend, I decided to call our hospice nurse yesterday morning. Like I said, I'm out of my league now and needed an expert to look at the situation for me. As I was thinking about calling her, the phone rang. It was our nurse. Two great minds with a single thought!!!

She came out around noon. She said Penny's vitals are still good. Breathing, heart beat and blood pressure are stable. In spite of that however, she doesn't expect her to last more than a week. She said she could quite possibly slip into a coma at any time now. She said many times that is what happens then the pass away right from the coma. I suppose that wouldn't be a bad way to go, if you have to go, that is. So she may very well sleep her way right into to heaven after all!!!

Penny's mom took the news from the nurse very hard. I felt so bad for her. Believe it or not, I actually gave her a hug!!! Well, you know, I CAN rise to the occasion, sometimes... Amy, TJ and myself did okay. Of course, we're Angel's you know!!!

Just as the nurse left, the social worker showed up. She is a real nice lady and I think helped with the shock of the news. She told us about the berevment services hospice offers. Some of us may take them up on the offer.

Penny doesn't talk anymore. About all I can get out of her is a wimper. If she's whimpering, she wants something. She is very confused about yes/no answers and if we get up, she has no idea where to go. When she goes back and forth to the bathroom, I put my arms under her armpits and walk directly behind her. She has no idea which way to go. If we go to the kitchen or family room, she rides in her wheel chair.

I think my SIL, Melody, may come in Thursday. That's assuming nothing happens before that. I talked to yesterday and told her somebody needs to be here for her mom when the time comes. I couldn't do it. I have my own thing going. She understood and will come down to be here when Penny slips away.

Keep us in your prayers...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

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Lynn & Larry: [Re: Limited Time...](#) (10-Nov-98 08:28:15)

The G's: [Re: Limited Time...](#) (10-Nov-98 08:33:54)

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### **Daddy Got it...**

Monday, 09-Nov-98 10:12:34

#### **Message:**

209.64.191.61 writes:

This morning I got Penny up for a few minutes. First she wanted to go to the bathroom then she wanted a drink of water. So after the bathroom I put her in her wheelchair and wheeled her to the kitchen for a drink. We sat there for 5 or 10 mins then she was ready to go back to bed. As I put her in bed she said, Daddy got me a drink of water. Her Mom and I looked at each other because her Dad died in 1974.

Yesterday I called hospice to see if I could up her pain patches another 25 MCG. She has been taking Percoset for pain pretty regular and I thought it was time. They said okay and that seemed to do the trick. She was comfortable all the rest of the day.

We had the birthday party for the twins as scheduled. Our local grocery chain gives free cakes for first birthdays. Leave it to my daughter to find that out. She's a chip off the old block, I tell you!!! So the twins got their own cake and she got one for rest of us. The twins, as expected, had cake on them from head to toe. It was beautiful!!!

Penny didn't get up for lunch but she did get up for cake and actually had a piece. She also stayed up to watch them open their gifts. Although she wasn't really "with it" she did enjoy watching the goings on and even smiled a bit.

Last night Penny was up several times. I was awakened by the sound of her crying. I got up and raised her up to a sitting position in bed to see what was going on. She was just crying hysterically and saying things that didn't make sense. After this 4am wake up I decided I had to get an antidepressant down her. I got milk, pudding and Zantac down her first then the antidepressant. She didn't hurl so it was a success!!! She slept the rest of the night. When we got up this morning I noticed that she has chewed the inside of her lip up. It really looks gross.

So, I suppose, things have taken a drastic turn here. Hopefully, the hospice nurse will be able to tell us something when she comes today. I called her and asked if she would come assess the situation. I am out of my league to the max now!!!

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

[Bill & Marsha: Re: Daddy Got it...](#) (09-Nov-98 12:04:33)  
[Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: Daddy Got it...](#) (09-Nov-98 12:09:19)  
[Kathy Laning: Re: Daddy Got it...](#) (09-Nov-98 13:33:25)  
[Your Brother: Re: Daddy Got it...S/B Tommy Got it!](#) (09-Nov-98 15:07:31)  
[Bill and Kate: Re: Daddy Got it...](#) (09-Nov-98 16:01:43)  
[Trudi: Crying for you, sending love, saying prayers.](#) (09-Nov-98 20:52:09)  
[Wendy: You are one heroic guy. My prayers are with you and Penny.](#) (09-Nov-98 21:35:27)  
[Kelly: Crying for you, sending love and hugs and prayers your way...](#) (09-Nov-98 23:30:48)  
[Judy & Avery Morris: Re: Daddy Got it...](#) (09-Nov-98 23:41:33)  
[Julie: Love and prayers for you both.....wishing things could be different for you.....Love, your teary-eyed buddy in CA](#) (10-Nov-98 04:15:57)

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**this is from florida**

Sunday, 08-Nov-98 18:37:16

**Message:**

204.96.211.227 writes:

tom, penny, and all the rest,

just want to send our love to all of you. we are back home again and truly enjoyed being with larry and his family on his birthday. god is so good. we are so thankful for that which he does for us everyday. was so happy that your friends could come and be with you. penny i love you and have so many happy memories.

keep trusting and holding on to god's promises happy birthday to noeh and noelle. how wonderful, they will carry both your names. how beautiful they are as well as jacob and hannah. but look where they came from. what else did we expect. much love to you all. we will continue to lift you all up in prayer, moment by moment.

love,  
uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura

uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura

[Click here to reply](#)

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**Not Getting Better...**

Sunday, 08-Nov-98 09:25:21

**Message:**

209.64.191.54 writes:

Penny is just not having any good/quality time now. She is constantly on breakthrough pain meds which really make her sleepy. I don't mind the sleepy too much. I would be happy if she slept her way from this world right into heaven. Of course, selfishly I would prefer that she be up enjoying me and her surroundings. The transition from this world can really hurt, EVERYBODY!

Just had to take a break. Had to get Penny out of her second shower she had this morning. When I put her to bed she asked me, Am I dying? I said, Yes, probably. She wanted to know how we would know. I said I didn't know. Then she went off to sleep. I went outside and cried my eyes out. Something I rarely do. There's plenty more tears where that came from though!

Today is the twins birthday. We're having a party. Some party! Maybe Penny will feel like coming out to see them open their gifts.

Looks like today is going to be one of those emotional kind of days. I can feel it already and it's only 930am!!!

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)**Replies:**

[Lois Ketner Angel: Re: Not Getting Better...](#) (08-Nov-98 09:53:42)

[Jim and Deb: Re: Not Getting Better...](#) (08-Nov-98 10:10:32)

[Lynda: Big hugs, Tom.... you both continue to be in my thoughts and prayers...I know it hurts, and I'm sooo sorry.....](#) (08-Nov-98 11:16:45)

[Kelly: Oh, Tom, I dont know what to say but I amthinking of you both with love and sending love and hugs your way...](#) (08-Nov-98 12:15:11)

[Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: Not Getting Better...](#) (08-Nov-98 13:31:36)

[Trudi: Re: Not Getting Better...](#) (08-Nov-98 22:09:06)

[Dale and Linda: Re: Not Getting Better...](#) (08-Nov-98 22:51:08)

[Jan C.: Hoping for a good week. Thinking of you lots, with love.](#) (09-Nov-98 08:17:12)

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**The Nurse and the Limo...**

Saturday, 07-Nov-98 08:02:17

**Message:**

209.64.191.86 writes:

Yesterday, Penny's hospice nurse showed up to bring us a bed pan so Penny wouldn't have to get out of bed so much to use the bathroom. She complained to the nurse about that the other day and told her sometimes it's so hard to do.

Later on in the day, Penny was telling us that the nurses limo driver was very nervous bringing her her because it was his first day on the job. We got a real hoot out of that one. She was as serious as she could be.

Penny got up yesterday morning with a vengeance. She had about a quarter of a piece of toast a glass of milk and a whole can, 360 calories, of a nutritional suppliment (Boost) for breakfast. Since she had all that, she was able to take all of her meds. Then she showered and went back to bed. The trip from the bedroom to the kitchen just wears her out. Actually, just the trip from the bed to the bathroom wears her out.

Her new recliners came in yesterday. TJ and I went to Sears Homelife and picked them up. By noon she had a recliner to sit in. She loved it. About 1pm the TV arrived. Steve and I spent the rest of the day hooking that up.

Last night was movie night. I finally saw Titanic. Hope everyone is happy now. Steve says they cut out a few parts on the home video. My MIL, Amy, Matt, Steve, TJ and I watched it. It was better than going to the show. Su stayed in the bedroom with Penny. She was having some pain and didn't want to get out of bed but she finally did for about the last 30mins. She just sort of napped in her recliner. That's okay, I'm happy with that. Just as long as she's around.

Our friends, Steve and Su, leave today to go back to Fairview Heights. I just don't know how we could/would have made this transition to the new house without them. There will surely be tears when they leave this morning. That's assuming they ever get up (we didn't go to bed til 1am).

Penny wanted to go to my brother's to get in the hot tub yesterday. I convinced her not to and told her maybe we could go today. The trip there just wears her out then the hot water just sucks the energy out of her. I know she loves it but I think it's just so hard on her. We'll do it today if she really wants to.

That was our day. Hope your day was good too.

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

buddy: [Re: The Nurse and the Limo...](#) (07-Nov-98 09:55:13)

Trudi: [Re: The Nurse and the Limo...](#) (07-Nov-98 11:15:09)

Linda, Bob & Sam: [Re: The Nurse and the Limo...](#) (07-Nov-98 12:03:36)

Bill and Marsha Peck: [Re: The Nurse and the Limo...](#) (07-Nov-98 23:03:27)

Lynn & Larry: [Re: The Nurse and the Limo...](#) (08-Nov-98 09:05:33)

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## **Titanic**

Saturday, 07-Nov-98 02:29:43

### **Message:**

205.188.198.38 writes:

With that fancy set up did you save that ship?

Am I the only one who noticed that you waited until your wife was heavily sedated before springing that on her? Rent "Like Water For Chocolate" if you can stand some competition from Antonio Banderas....

You're one of the good guys Tom.

Patty

Patty Sankey

[Click here to reply](#)

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**The Invisible Pill...**

Friday, 06-Nov-98 07:32:58

**Message:**

209.64.191.95 writes:

Whenever I get ready to give Penny meds I hand them to her to hold between her thumb and finger while I sit her up. Yesterday, long after pill time we were sitting by the bed and she started laughing. When I asked why, she said she's been holding this pill for over an hour but when she looked down at it, there was no pill. She thought that was the funniest story and made sure everybody heard it. So, I thought I'd share it with you.

She was having quite a bit of sporadic pain yesterday. All of a sudden something, somewhere will start hurting real bad. She is taking more and more of her breakthrough pain meds.

Penny is beginning to have more reality checks. She told me yesterday that I'll be without a wife soon. I told her I know but I'll be fine. She said she knows that but she will miss us. She had a similar conversation with TJ too.

We went to the RAD onc yesterday. She's doing about right from the radiation she had. We told her about some other pains and she said when we feel like we're over the fatigue from the last radiation and want to do more, just give them a call. Penny's right arm hurts real bad. So much so that she is unable to use it and to move it she moves it with her other arm.

Our friends from Illinois will be leaving Saturday. I don't know what we would have done without them. Su has been so helpful getting things put away and helping with Penny while I've had to do other stuff. And Steve not only helped with the actual moving but more importantly saved me \$300 by crawling around my attic running wires for the Home Theater System I bought. I could have never done it all myself. (For one, I'm too fat to crawl around in the attic like he did.)

Already had two catastrophes. The dishwasher went out and the garage door opener stripped a gear. Geezzzzzz... I had almost forgotten how wonderful home ownership was!!!

Today is going to be a good day here for the Angel's. Hope it's one in your neck of the woods too!!!

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)**Replies:**

[Lynn & Larry: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 08:15:12)

[Lois Ketner Angel: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 08:56:40)

[Don & Joni Gulley: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 09:01:53)

[Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 11:50:41)

[Karen Burdette: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 12:00:58)

[buddy: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 14:09:09)

[Kathy Laning: Re: The Invisible Pill...](#) (06-Nov-98 17:47:35)

[Marcia: You all did it! Glad the move got done. Enjoying that big screen and theater system tonight? Seriously, thinking of you and Penny and wishing you peace.](#) (07-Nov-98 01:09:17)

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### **Tell Penny that we love her**

Thursday, 05-Nov-98 22:49:30

**Message:**

152.163.204.196 writes:

Uncle Tom I finally got the e-mail address to write to you - Please tell Aunt Penny that we love her very much and are praying for her. I always ask Mom & Dad what's going on and how she is feeling. You all hang in there I know that you are because the Angel's are tough people. It's so cold here right now we both bundle up and wear our gloves. Christian is growing like a weed - he's been eating like a little piglet. We can't wait to get there for Thanksgiving to see all of you. I send my love give Penny a kiss on the fore head for me- okay.

See You Soon-

Love,

Stacy Cate

Stacy & Christian

[Click here to reply](#)

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### **Big Screen**

Thursday, 05-Nov-98 16:35:57

**Message:**

208.204.46.31 writes:

Once you get the big screen, the hard part is to figure out how to hook it up, use it etc. Good luck. Bill

Bill Gavin

[Click here to reply](#)

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**No Big Screen...**

Thursday, 05-Nov-98 06:54:29

**Message:**

209.64.191.2 writes:

I was so disappointed when my Big Screen TV didn't arrive Wednesday. Our phones weren't turned on until 10am Wednesday morning and I believe that since they couldn't get ahold of us they postponed delivery until Friday. The good news is that in the meantime I bought a Home Theater System to hook up to it. We're going to watch Titanic Friday night. A little popcorn in the microwave to create the theater smell and, \*poof\*, we have instant theater!!!

Penny had a reasonably good day yesterday except in the early afternoon she was having lots of pain in various places. I upped her pain patch back to 75 MCG. She had been back down to 50 MCG since Oct 28th. The hospice nurse came by in the afternoon and actually thought she was better even though she was on more pain patches.

Penny took a bath in her new garden tub, along with Jacob and Hannah. All three of them in there together. It was so cute and she enjoyed it so much. Then came the hard part, she had to get out! That is always an ordeal. After her bath she really started hurting in her legs and abdomen. It took quite a bit of her breakthrough pain meds to knock it out.

She did eat a pretty good lunch yesterday. I don't think she got out of bed all day though except for the bath and to go to the bathroom.

I did close on the house Wednesday. So me and the bank own it. We're partners. Of course, they're a bigger partner than I am.

Well, that's what's happening in a nutshell. Hope your nutshell is not as busy as ours!!!

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

[Lynn & Larry: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 08:49:18)

[Bill & Marsha Peck: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 09:47:45)

[Kathy Laning: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 10:34:06)

[Jim & Debbie: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 11:21:33)

[Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 12:36:15)

[Judy Morris: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 17:39:43)

[uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura: Re: No Big Screen...](#) (05-Nov-98 22:25:36)

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**YES, WE ARE HERE AND WE HAVE PHONE LINES!!!**

Wednesday, 04-Nov-98 21:45:57

**Message:**

209.64.191.46 writes:

I'm back in business!!! It took all day for them to get my modem line working. I'm back!!!

We moved ALL day yesterday. The last load was brought in about 530pm. EVERYBODY was pooped but the work had only begun. I didn't get my waterbed put back together until 1130pm. I was ready to crawl in it by then. Actually, I was ready before then. Penny laid in the guest bed until ours was ready. I felt bad because I wasn't able to give her all the attention I usually do but there were plenty of us around and everybody checked on her.

Penny went to my brother and SIL's house during the move. Actually all the women went there while the men moved. They have a hot tub and Penny was in it for over an hour. That's the best "bath" she's had in ages. After the tub she slept on and off the rest of the afternoon. Four women chattering in a hot tub room, I mean really, how much sleep could a person get???

The house is taking on some sort of order. Still lots of work to do.

Anyway, just wanted to let uou know I'm back and I'll update again in the morning.

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

Tammy: Tom, I'm glad to hear you are in the new house. I hope Penny has some time to enjoy it. Give Penny a gentle hug from me. (04-Nov-98 23:41:57)

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**I bet there's no early morning message 'cause**

Wednesday, 04-Nov-98 07:16:10

**Message:**

199.174.170.123 writes:

the computer's not set up yet!!!!  
(Thinking of you.)

Jan C.

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

Trudi: [I hope the closing goes well, without a hitch. Sending lots of love, saying lots of prayers.](#) (04-Nov-98 09:16:39)

Kathy Laning: [Re: I bet there's no early morning message 'cause](#) (04-Nov-98 10:48:36)

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**(No subject)**

Tuesday, 03-Nov-98 13:46:12

**Message:**

205.188.193.164 writes:

I'm on my lunch hour at work and just got up to date on your messages. I was so glad to see your moving into your new house. I had actually said a few prayers for that one and am so glad it's coming true. I miss you guys and think of you often. I must commend you on your dedication to this message board. I don't think you've missed a day. Everyone from Gateway(almost everyone) says hi and the people at the Tex Mex ask about you guys often. I'm heading down that way tomorrow evening. Good luck on the new house.

Peggy

[Click here to reply](#)

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**IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!**

Tuesday, 03-Nov-98 07:19:54

**Message:**

209.64.191.4 writes:

Yes, I was concerned for a while but we made it. Today is the big day. I'm getting ready to go get the truck and start loading. Nobody is here to help though. Do you find that hard to believe???

We did have quite a scare though. The termite inspector found a little wood rot on a shed and a spot about the size of a dime below the bay window in the kitchen. The mortgage company says it HAS to be fixed before we can close. Coincidentally, the termite guy knew someone that could fix it today. Imagine that!!! Everybody I called from the phone book was busy today. Hum... Anyway, closing has been postponed until Wednesday morning but the sellers are letting us move in today.

Penny had a usual day yesterday until our friends, Steve and Su, arrived. Then she really perked up. She laid in bed but we all talked for a couple of hours. There were tears shed when she first saw Penny. I'm not sure if they were for joy of seeing her or the condition she's in. Penny was really glad to see Su though.

I have to get going so that's all I can tell you for right now. Have a good one...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

[buddy angel](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 09:27:57)

[Bill & Marsha Peck](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 09:51:03)

[Linda, Bob & Sam](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 10:21:49)

[Kathy Laning](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 10:32:52)

[Peggy](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 13:50:36)

[Lynn & Larry](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 18:32:41)

[John Bowen](#): [Re: IT'S MOVING DAY!!! WE MADE IT!!!](#) (03-Nov-98 19:30:38)

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**Same-o Same-o**

Monday, 02-Nov-98 08:40:48

**Message:**

209.64.191.81 writes:

Yesterday was pretty much as the day before. Up a couple of times but never really woke up. She did eat a respectable lunch though. She had a half a cup a soup, 3-4 bites of ham and a piece of watermellon. Not bad for her.

TJ and I went out for a couple of hours shopping for a big screen TV. We got one!!! A 61 inch!!! It'll be delivered Wednesday to the new house. Then we went to lunch at Capt. D's. We were gone about 2 1/2 hours and by the time we got home, Penny was so upset that I was gone so long.

I had my BIL's take my MIL out to dinner last night so she could get out a little. I had bought her a ticket to go home today but I don't think she's going. Just my luck!!!

Our friends, Steve and Su, from Fairview Heights are coming in today. We were so close to them when we lived there. We went out to eat every Friday night with them. Always tried to pick a new place to eat. When we ran out of places we knew about, we each bought one of those Gold C coupon books. It was full of new places in St Louis we had never heard of. We had so much fun just trying to find the place. And we really had some interesting meals, both good and bad!!!

We move into our new house tomorrow. This is going to be a real trick. I'll be juggling keeping Penny comfortable and keeping a bed set up for her at both places. Lucky for me, not for Matt, he is off tomorrow. So I'll have Steve, Su, TJ, Matt, me and my MIL to help. I think I'll supervise. Yeah, that's what I'll do...

Have a good day...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

debby: [Re: Same-o Same-o](#) (02-Nov-98 09:15:17)

buddy: [Re: RUI Vanlines & Movers, Inc.](#) (02-Nov-98 10:56:46)

[Kathy Laning: Re: Same-o Same-o](#) (02-Nov-98 11:18:10)

[Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: Same-o Same-o](#) (02-Nov-98 12:01:35)

[Sandy & Jerry Anderson: Re: Same-o Same-o](#) (02-Nov-98 20:07:10)

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**Tom, do you have Target stores in your area? Cause I was clipping coupons in this morning's Sunday paper supplements, and our local Target is offering every possible thing you could want in a bathroom, in PURPLE!!! If there's one in Jax, you might want to check it out. All my love and dearest wishes.**

Sunday, 01-Nov-98 14:36:46

**Message:**

151.200.121.131 writes:

Katie

[Click here to reply](#)

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**Our Family is Complete...**

Sunday, 01-Nov-98 07:39:50

**Message:**

152.163.197.82 writes:

TJ and his dog, Peanut, made it home last night about 920pm. I felt such a sense of relief and I knew Penny would too. So, we went in to see her right away. Of course she was sleeping, we woke her up. She got the biggest smile on her face when she saw him. It just made her day!!! I think it was hard on TJ seeing his mom like this. I took his dog outside and left him alone with her a while.

Penny slept all day yesterday. She was up a couple of times, twice I put her in the shower and twice she came in the living room, but never really woke up any of the times. I tell her if she wants to take a shower she has to wake up because I won't put her in there if her eyes keep rolling back in her head. She tries to wake up but just can't do it. I put her in the shower seat anyway. She likes to sit there with the water pouring on her until all the hot water is gone. So, I just sit outside the end of the tub with my head stuck in the curtain and talk to her and watch her. I'm so afraid she'll fall out sideways.

She ate, maybe, two or three bites of food all day yesterday. Between just not wanting to take any food in and falling asleep, she just can't do it. I do not force. If she says she's done then she's done. I do, however, suggest something else, like a pudding cup, watermelon, a dessert or something else she likes.

We had a long talk before bed last night about her getting up by herself at night. So before I went to bed I got her up to go to the bathroom. She slept all night and about 6am woke me to take her again. YES, it worked!!!

Hospice called yesterday, they said unfortunately things will probably not get any better. I didn't think they would. I imagine they will probably start calling or coming out everyday now.

Penny did discuss with me some ideas she had about decorating the house. She wants to use our purple bathroom stuff in the bathroom. (We've never had purple bathroom stuff!!!) But I just agree but, hey, if she wants some purple bathroom stuff, I'll find some and we'll have a purple bathroom!!! And that's that!!!

Anyway, you get the idea about what's going on. I'm just praying that she get's some time to spend in the new house. I'd like for you to pray for that too.

One other thing... You know, God is still being so good to us and is answering my prayer that I've had for Penny since day one. Penny has not had any pain and is so comfortable throughout this whole thing. (She's always loved to sleep!!!) So see, God IS in control, right Charlie???

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)**Replies:**

Late: Tom, God IS in control, but He sure has a fine right-hand man in you. The purple bathroom sounds mighty fine and I'm praying that Penny will get to take some good long showers in it. Loving thoughts and prayers coming at you both. (01-Nov-98 08:35:48)

Kate seconds the above. (01-Nov-98 08:36:57)

Linda, Bob & Sam: Re: Our Family is Complete... (01-Nov-98 11:19:01)

buddy & debby: Re: Many things about tomorrow..... (01-Nov-98 12:13:31)

uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura: Re: Our Family is Complete... (01-Nov-98 17:43:13)

Bill and Marsha Peck: Re: Our Family is Complete... (01-Nov-98 22:14:03)

Kelly: Sending you love and prayers. I am thinking of you both so much. And a purple bathroom sounds mighty fine to me!!! ;-) (01-Nov-98 23:39:25)

Suze: Tom, I'm so glad TJ made it home. I'm sure that gives you peace. You're doing a wonderful job. Tom. You are a Master Caregiver. (02-Nov-98 00:50:43)

Lynn & Larry: Re: Our Family is Complete... (02-Nov-98 07:43:37)

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**Not good...**

Saturday, 31-Oct-98 07:06:32

**Message:**

205.188.196.49 writes:

As of this morning, since July 26, 1998 this message board has been viewed 5506 times.

Thanks!!!

Yesterday morning, I got Penny up about 9-ish. MIL made her bacon and eggs. She ate, maybe, two bites of each. She said she'd eat some pudding. She did eat quite a bit of the pudding cup. I gave her two of her pills and she promptly threw them up. She wouldn't eat anymore. I called Hospice to see what to do. I am so much out of my league now. They said to not worry about it and skip the dose. We did, had no choice. That was two doses in a row she missed. She did the same thing the night before.

Yesterday, she didn't really wake up until about 430pm. She was up a couple of other times but didn't really wake up until then. She said she had a lousy time sleeping the night before last so I guess she made up for it during the day. Last night I gave her a sleeping pill so she would sleep well all NIGHT.

This morning at 6am I was awakened by the sound of Penny falling. She wound up hitting her head on our nightstand but I think that's about it. Scared me to death!!! I told her from now on she HAS to wake me if she's going to get up. I don't know if she understood or not.

My BIL's arrived last night. Just in time for dinner, as I suspected they would. My SIL, Debby, brought over some pork chops, potatoes, green beans and a pot of pinto beans. What a meal!!! She even made it herself which even makes it more impressive!!!

Well, my day has started off with a bang. I hadn't really planned on getting up on Saturday at 6am. I hope it settles down from here.

We know God has a new plan he is about to reveal to us. Please just keep those prayers coming that Penny just remains pain free throughout this. Thanks...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**



Trudi: Many prayers being sent, that Penny be free of pain. Also prayers for you, to have continued strength.....Lots of love & hugs are also on their way. (31-Oct-98 08:35:41)

The G's: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 08:39:52)

Jim & Debbie: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 10:46:56)

buddy & debby: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 10:49:11)

Wendy: Tom, I hope having your BILS there will be a source of comfort for you and for Penny. Sounds like there presence is bringing good food your way anyway. My prayers are with you. (31-Oct-98 11:14:01)

Linda, Bob and Sam: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 11:15:31)

I meant to write their presence.....sometimes my English it's not so good =) (31-Oct-98 11:16:44)

Sue Beever: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 11:41:19)

Lynda: Sometimes words fail me, but know that the prayers will continue, for strength and peace and so much more..... (31-Oct-98 11:43:10)

Jan C.: Tom, thinking of you and Penny and sending love. (31-Oct-98 15:52:36)

uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura: Re: Not good... (31-Oct-98 17:36:31)

Julie: Many hugs, thoughts and prayers being sent.... (31-Oct-98 23:33:48)

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**Here we go again, it's Friday!!!**

Friday, 30-Oct-98 07:10:21

**Message:**

209.64.191.18 writes:

Penny had a tired day yesterday. That's about all I could say about it. She was just tired and ate very little. Sound familiar???

I took my SIL, Kim, to the airport last night. I couldn't get Penny to go with us. She was just too tired she said. There were tearful goodbyes. She was supposed to stay until Friday but it's the first time she's been apart from her 2 year old son, Colin. (I'd have thought she would have wanted to stay a month!!!) She stayed as long as she could.

Penny's 2 brothers, David and Tim, leave from Nashville today, probably around 8am. It's about a 9-10 hour drive. They'll be here for dinner. (You know how BIL's are. They rarely miss one of those.) They will stay until Monday morning. After Dave and Tim get here, all of Penny's family will have come in to spend some final time with her.

My MIL was supposed to leave Monday but I don't think she has really decided. She hates to go but would hate to have something happen without her being here. (You probably know my opinion!!!)

I've been working this week. No, let me rephrase that...I've been going to work this week. I've been going in late, after Penny's gotten up and around, but I make up for it by going home early. It's pretty hard to focus. I've done a few little projects. Probably not enough to earn my keep though.

Hope you're ready to face the week-end. Do something fun, something that you've been wanting to do but just haven't found the time. You just never know...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)**Replies:**

Lynn & Larry: [Re: Here we go again, it's Friday!!!](#) (30-Oct-98 07:37:32)

Jan C.: [Tom and Penny, sending you love and courage.](#) (30-Oct-98 08:13:13)

The G's: [Just checking in and sending you good thoughts and prayers for today!](#) (30-Oct-98 08:57:11)

Kathy Laning: [Re: Here we go again, it's Friday!!!](#) (30-Oct-98 12:23:15)

Bill and Marsha Peck: [Re: Here we go again, it's Friday!!!](#) (30-Oct-98 18:58:58)

Trudi: [I thought about Penny this morning, so I gave Bruce an extra hug....I thought about Penny tonight, so I played a game with Brittany....Love & hugs to both of you.](#) (30-Oct-98 22:44:03)

Pam Van Bevern: [Re: Here we go again, it's Friday!!!](#) (30-Oct-98 23:17:33)

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**Reply to wont be long**

Thursday, 29-Oct-98 11:45:28

**Message:**

207.1.239.248 writes:

As I read your message today, Tom, I felt the love you have shown throughout this ordeal, and the pain and frustration that Penny has, I felt it as much as an outsider looking in could. I type this, as I read your message, with tears flowing down my face.  
May God give you strength, continued wisdom, and comfort. Joan

Joan

[Click here to reply](#)

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**It won't be long...**

Thursday, 29-Oct-98 06:32:09

**Message:**

209.64.191.19 writes:

I believe we have some probable answers on Penny's problem with her speech and ears. I believe she now has cancer in her jaw and possibly even worse. I discussed it with the Hospice nurse and she had no answers for the ears but suggested that the jaw problem could be a bone met. When I took Penny to the RAD ONC the nurse there said the hearing loss would certainly follow the jaw involvement. So it turns out that she doesn't have slurred speech at all, she's not opening her mouth to talk.

Last night she wanted to take a bath. While in the bathroom she seemed to take a good look at herself in the mirror. She finally noticed how much weight she's lost and asked if was there anything we could do about it. I said eat. She knew the real answer.

We got her in the tub and she soaked for a while but was deep in thought. When she got out she was so out of breath and it was such an ordeal she said this was the last bath she will ever take. Then she began to cry. It was during her bath that I think she finally realized that the battle is over.

It's MY honest opinion that it really won't be long for her now. I could be wrong but I think we're looking at a couple of weeks, maybe. With the things I see going on in her and the disorientation she lapses in and out of I think we've turned down the final road.

After the bath episode, she thankfully went pretty much right to sleep. She cried a while in bed first so I held her but then she just fell off to sleep.

Great news, huh? Wish I had something better to tell you but this is what's happening. See ya...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

My heart breaks for you because it's you I've known all along, but as a cancer patient myself, my heart breaks for her. I know so clearly what she feels. I'm not anywhere near where she is, but I'm on the same road. You've been so good for her--when I think my own "what-ifs", I can't think of how anyone could've been better to her than you have, and continue to be. You've been the most wonderful possible caregiver, Tommy, in every way, taking care of practical and medical matters, not to mention all the stuff about moving and changing jobs, and in the meantime keeping her aware of how much you love her. All I can do is pray for you both, and I do.: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 06:52:27)

Jim and Deb: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 07:54:12)

Lynn & Larry: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 08:06:47)

With love, hugs & tears - Trudi: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 08:21:48)

Linda and Samantha: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 10:28:13)

Kathy Laning: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 11:24:06)

uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 12:19:16)

Jan C.: Tom, I'm thinking of you and Penny constantly. Know that peace awaits her. With much love and empathy. (29-Oct-98 14:33:11)

Lynda: Wishing you both peace as you walk together to the crossroads... my prayers continue to be with you ... ((((((Tom and Penny)))))) (29-Oct-98 15:05:14)

Bill & Marsha: Re: It won't be long... (29-Oct-98 20:14:45)

Wendy: Love and prayers are being sent your way. (29-Oct-98 21:12:21)

Kelly: I wish there were something I could say or do... I wish you both peacefullness as you make this journey. The love you have for each other is very apparant and very moving. (((Tom and Penny))) (29-Oct-98 23:00:24)

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**I Lied....**

Wednesday, 28-Oct-98 06:22:02

**Message:**

209.64.191.36 writes:

Yesterday morning about 8am we tried cutting the pain meds in half to 25mcg. Penny cleared up a little and her speech got a little better. By the time we got back from radiation she was feeling achey all over again. Remember that? She hasn't had that feeling since before she was in the hospital for dehydration back in September. That is when they gave her the 50mcg pain patch. When she told me that I immediately changed her back to the original 50 mcg patch. In cases like this you are supposed to say, better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all. I wish it would have worked though.

She did get to take her mom and sister to see the house yesterday. The appraiser was there so the lady didn't mind a few extra bodies wandering around. They liked it. We're still set for Tuesday.

Penny was pretty upset last night about how her days have been going. She says she only gets up in the morning so she can take a nap. She said this is no way to live.

Last night I cooked some filets on the grill. I had a couple pieces of chicken and some hot dogs I threw on too. Penny ate a half of a filet and a half a baked potato. Then she had to go to bed because she felt so full. It was after that she got up and sat in the shower talking about her days.

I went to Chrysler last night and ordered some running boards. I found out that Chrysler will pay up to \$750 for accessories to equip a vehicle for easier access for disabled people. I said "Cool"!!! So, I'm getting some real nice color coded molded running boards for the van. Penny will be able to get in and out so much easier. My van will look pretty good too.

That's our day. The hospice nurse is coming today. I discussed Penny being so disoriented and confused sometimes with her. She said it's a stage. She also gave me some others.

Hope you day goes well...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

Trudi: Thinking about you, sending lots of love, and saying lots of prayers. (no message follows) (28-Oct-98 10:14:44)

Jim: Re: I Lied.... (28-Oct-98 10:22:04)

Kathy Laning: Re: I Lied.... (28-Oct-98 12:01:00)

Kathy Laning: Re: I Lied.... (28-Oct-98 12:02:03)

Linda and Sam: Re: I Lied.... (28-Oct-98 12:39:57)

Lynn & Larry: Re: I Lied.... (28-Oct-98 15:56:19)

Kelly: Tom, thinking of you and Penny and sending lots of love and hugs your way!!! (28-Oct-98 17:29:05)

Lynda: Add my love and hugs to the rest..... you are doing such a great job Tom...I'm sure you hear that all the time!! :-) (28-Oct-98 19:32:32)

The G's: Tom: keep the faith and know our thoughts are with you! (28-Oct-98 22:08:59)

Jan C.: Tommy, thinking of you and Penny and sending you love. (28-Oct-98 22:42:12)

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### Is this a new day??? Already???

Tuesday, 27-Oct-98 07:00:36

#### Message:

209.64.191.45 writes:

Penny seemed to be stablizing a bit yesterday so I think I'll go back to work today. I'm only 8mins from home so I could be here in a heartbeat.

Penny is not having any pain anywhere. (I ask her that constantly.) She still doesn't do anything but sleep or lay on the couch but yesterday she did sit up for a while. Her speech is very slurred and for some reason her ears are plugged up. I slurred speech I assume is from the medication. So with tomorrow being the day we change her pain patch, I'm going to go down one more step on her pain meds to see if maybe that'll make her feel a little better.

Last night in bed she said she felt very weird. A feeling of not feeling too well. Hopefully, she was just tired.

Her sister, Kim, arrived yesterday. She told me she had been warned by her sister Melody and her mom that Penny didn't look too good. She said Penny looked a lot worse that she thought she would. No fat on her body. Just skin and bone. For some reason, Penny doesn't see it. She has only made one comment about her neck getting thin. I suppose we see ourselves differently in a mirror than others see us in real life.

We have had some really great meals recently. The other day the guys at my office brought over a huge crockpot full of roast beef, potatoes and carrots. A bag of rolls, chips, a huge spiral cut ham and more desserts than you could shake a stick at!!! We ate on the roast for three days. Froze the ham for later and killed off as many of the desserts as one (me, being the one) could consume. Then yesterday, my brother, Buddy, and his wife, Debby, brought us a couple of gourmet dinners that a local meat market puts together. We had chicken with a white shrimp and mushroom sauce, green beans, wild rice, salad and german chocolate cake. We have eaten like kings the past week!!!

After talking about all of this I think I'll have a little breakfast. Have a good day...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

### Replies:

[Jan C.:](#) [Tom, thinking of you and Penny and sending you strength and love.](#) (27-Oct-98 08:34:46)

[Linda, Bob & Sam:](#) [Re: Is this a new day??? Already???](#) (27-Oct-98 11:23:04)

[Kathy Laning:](#) [Re: Is this a new day??? Already???](#) (27-Oct-98 15:50:21)

[uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura:](#) [Re: Is this a new day??? Already???](#) (27-Oct-98 16:25:15)

[Lynn & Larry:](#) [Re: Is this a new day??? Already???](#) (27-Oct-98 22:21:47)

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### Today is Monday??? Again???

Monday, 26-Oct-98 09:05:32

#### Message:

209.64.191.58 writes:

I lied. I didn't go to get the donuts like I said I was going to. Instead, I woke Penny and asked her if she'd like to go to breakfast. She said she would later.

I re-woke her at 10am and told her the biscuits and gravy was going to be gone at Kountry Kitchen if we didn't get moving. So she got up and dressed and away we went on our adventure.

I got the LAST order of biscuits and gravy!!! Whew...that was a close one!!! They were out of home fries though. Maybe someday I'll get her up early enough to get some.

She had one egg, ham, hashbrowns and toast. Sounds like a lot except she only had maybe two bites of each. We went to the car and she promptly threw up. I think it was the grease.

We came home and she napped for several hours and we went to the grocery store. I know she likes being able to pick the stuff off the shelf that we need. Her mom pushed the cart and I pushed Penny in her wheelchair. A woman just has to make decisions, you know!!! Anyway, we came home and she laid on the couch for the rest of the day.

Today, her plan is to take a bath this morning. She really enjoys them. It is quite a production though. She sits on the edge of the bathtub and I put my arm under hers and actually pick her up and set her in the tub. To get out, I do the opposite. She does love her baths though!!! They make her feel so-o-o good!!!

Her sister, Kim, comes in this afternoon and will stay until Friday. I think I'll go back to work tomorrow. There will be plenty of people around here.

Penny has her 3rd radiation treatment today. Wednesday will be her last. She should be fork tender by then!!!

Have a good day...

Tom



[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

[Kathy Laning](#): [Re: Today is Monday??? Again???](#) (26-Oct-98 10:36:42)

[Linda, Bob & Sam](#): [Re: Today is Monday??? Again???](#) (26-Oct-98 11:24:08)

[Gator Gus & the Bayou Bunch](#): [Re: Did You Say Fork Tender?](#) (26-Oct-98 19:35:53)

[Scott & Melissa](#): [Re: Today is Monday??? Again???](#) (26-Oct-98 21:51:10)

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**It Wasn't Too Bad...**

Sunday, 25-Oct-98 06:25:41

**Message:**

209.64.191.34 writes:

As I said yesterday, we \*could\* have the makings of a \*good\* day. Well, Penny got up about 8am, took a shower, took her meds and promptly began the dry heaves. They really knocked the wind out of her sails. So she decided to go back to bed and try it all again later.

Later, she got up about 10am, got dressed and we took off. We went to a little restaurant called the Kountry Kitchen for brunch. Penny had a pattie melt and I had breakfast. That makes it brunch. Then we went to my mothers and stayed there for an hour or so. Then we went to Sears to shop a little. We got home about 345pm. She was ready to lay down.

She laid on the couch the rest of the day. At least we got her out for a little activity. She felt pretty good about that.

I told her that if she felt like it today, I'd take her to breakfast again. She said she'd rather have donuts. So, guess where I'm going this morning...

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

[The G's](#): [Sounds like Dunkin' Donuts, to me!!!](#) (25-Oct-98 07:42:10)

[Linda, Bob & Sam](#): [Re: It Wasn't Too Bad...](#) (25-Oct-98 13:16:33)

[Gator Gus & the Bayou Bunch](#): [Re: Krispy Kreme it is!](#) (25-Oct-98 15:28:54)

**This \*Could\* be a \*Good\* day!!!**

Saturday, 24-Oct-98 07:59:59

**Message:**

209.64.191.35 writes:

It appears that we have the makings of a good day ahead of us.

I woke up about 615am and Penny was semi-awake. She said she still wants to go to breakfast and then to my mom's condo this morning. She asked me to hook up the oxygen and wake her when her mom got up. Me, being the subserviant husband that I am, complied with her wishes. About 715am her mom got up and she was ready to unhook the oxygen but not really ready to get up. I told her when her mom got back from her walk we'll get started. She said that was a good plan.

Yesterday the social worker and nurse made their first visit. I talked quite a while with the social worker before she saw Penny. I told her Penny doesn't want to know anything she doesn't already know. The social worker told Penny and I that Hospice's philosophy is to prepare for the worst but hope for the best. I like that philosophy. She seemed pleased with her visit with us. She also got Penny to sign off on a "Living Will" for her, "Healthcare Power of Attorney" for me and a "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)" in case someone panicked and called 911 by mistake. I made a deal with Penny that we would put the DNR in the drawer for now.

The radiation seems to be working pretty fast. Penny's leg only bothers her when she is getting up and down now. Hopefully today, it won't even bother her then. I have started backing her off some of her pain meds now since the pain is subsiding. She has been on so many that her words are slurred and she just falls off asleep in mid-sentence.

Her Hospice nurse is a real nice lady. Her name is Bob Ellen. Probably early 50's, heavy set, red hair and is from Tennessee. I preferred someone 25ish, blond, blue eyes, nice figure...you get the picture. I suppose Bob Ellen will have to do though.

I'll let you know how our day goes. Hope your Saturday is a good one too!!!

Tom

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

angelman: [Re: This \\*Could\\* be a \\*Good\\* day!!!](#) (24-Oct-98 09:18:34)

The G's: [You like your nurses like you like your movies???? "No-Brainers"??? This IS scary!](#) (24-Oct-98 09:26:33)

Jim: [Re: This \\*Could\\* be a \\*Good\\* day!!!](#) (24-Oct-98 11:24:44)

Linda, Bob & Sam: [Re: This \\*Could\\* be a \\*Good\\* day!!!](#) (24-Oct-98 12:02:28)

Julie: [I like Bob's philosophy too Tom...I hope you have a great day today.](#) (24-Oct-98 16:18:22)

Lynn & Larry: [Re: This \\*Could\\* be a \\*Good\\* day!!!](#) (24-Oct-98 21:41:58)

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**I couldn't wait...**

Friday, 23-Oct-98 07:38:24

**Message:**

205.188.196.33 writes:

I said yesterday that if Hospice didn't call by mid day, I'd call them. I couldn't wait. I felt that the ball needed to get rolling so at 8am I called Hospice AND the radiation oncologist to see what the plan was going to be. I couldn't believe it, neither Mayo DR had contacted the person that needed to be contacted. So I did it for them. By 9am, Hospice had been referred by Pennys Mayo oncologist and an appointment was scheduled for 1:30pm. Also, I put the Mayo RAD oncologist in touch with the local RAD oncologist and an appointment was scheduled for 11am. Sometimes, when you want something done right, you just have to do it yourself!!!

Penny does not do mornings too well so I let her sleep as long as possible. I got her up at 10:15am to eat something, take her pills and get cleaned up to go. I kind of had to move her right along without looking or acting stressed but we made it to the office right on the money, 11am.

Amy ran out to Mayo to pick up her films and reports for me. I just didn't have the time. It's an hour and a half round trip to/from Mayo. She just grabs a twin in each arm and goes. The older kids were in school.

The RAD oncologist was pretty much waiting for us. He had the scoop on Penny straight from the Mayo RAD oncologist's mouth. He talked to us briefly and had a treatment already scheduled for her.

Actually, he bought his staff lunch so they would work through lunch and get Penny through the simulator and get the treatment done. She will have 5 mega treatments to kill the cancer in the right hip. Then we'll see if anything else hurts. He also told me that from now on, I am to bring her in through the ambulance entrance which is close to the treatment room. He said she would only be there about 10mins for each treatment.

We got home about 12:45pm. Penny was beat. Hospice arrived at 1:30pm, right on schedule. There is really more to Hospice than I had realized. I had to pick a treatment plan, which I did and they are set up to start coming in once a week unless we need them more often. I turned down the daily aide. I think Penny would rather I take care of her.

They are furnishing a walker, chair for the shower, oxygen machine and all of her meds for 30 days. After that my insurance quits paying them and I have to start filing it with my insurance co and pay for my share. They still offer the basic services free but not the extra stuff. Go figure...

After the Hospice lady left, Penny decided to take a ride and show her Mom the house. As we were leaving, we have three steps on the sidewalk, she lost her balance on the third step and fell. I had one of her arms but she just slipped through. I never expected her to do that. I was able to soften/slow the fall but I couldn't stop it. I was devastated!!! She fell so lightly she didn't hurt herself. I'm going to ask the apartment complex if they have a ramp to make this handicap accessible. They don't even have handicap parking places. I need to find out what the ADA law says about this. Anyone know?

Anyway, that was our day. Sorry this is so long but I had a lot to say.

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

angelman: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 08:45:13)

Lynn & Larry: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 09:09:08)

Tammy: [Just checking in...](#) (23-Oct-98 09:26:25)

Lois Ketner Angel: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 09:37:34)

Linda, Bob and Sam: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 10:50:46)

Kathy Laning: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 16:11:51)

jim and deb: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 17:34:39)

Ryan martin: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 19:07:00)

[Re: Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 21:02:46)

uncle arthur, aunt nana, laura: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (23-Oct-98 20:33:44)

Bill and Marsha Peck: [Re: I couldn't wait...](#) (24-Oct-98 00:15:06)

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**New Day...**

Thursday, 22-Oct-98 07:46:45

**Message:**

152.163.201.52 writes:

Yesterday Penny managed to stay awake all day. Well, maybe she grabbed a catnap here or there but for the most part she was up all day.

I bought a new mattress for our waterbed and it arrived yesterday. It has two separate bags in it enclosed in a regular mattress cover with a pillowtop top. It is much firmer than the regular waterbed bag we had and is about two inches higher than the top of the side rail. Penny can get in and out of bed a little easier now.

She is having a lot of pain in her right leg. The radiation oncologist from Mayo called yesterday and I told him we would like to find a facility here in Orange Park. It takes us about 45 mins to get to Mayo from here and it would be too hard on Penny to make the trip everyday. He said he will call one locally for us.

I have not been able to work this week. I don't know what will happen next week. Probably the same thing. There is no way Penny's Mom can pick Penny up and move her as she needs. I don't know what others do in times like this. God \*MUST\* have had it in His plan for us to be here. I would not have been able to do this in Fairview Heights.

Hospice has not contacted us yet. If they don't call us by mid day, I'm going to call them. Penny needs some pain relief.

Thanks for all the messages you all sent. You will never know how logging on to find these personal messages makes us feel. I thank you for all of the love and caring you all offer to us.

Hope your day is a good one.

Tom

[Click here to reply](#)

**Replies:**

angelman: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 08:21:03)

The G's: [EVERY day is a NEW day!!!!](#) (22-Oct-98 08:50:01)

Kate: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 09:52:44)

Linda, Bob & Sam: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 10:43:24)

Trudi: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 12:05:54)

Kathy Laning: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 18:39:33)

debbie and jim: [Re: New Day...](#) (22-Oct-98 18:45:13)

Jan C.: [Tom, hang in there! Sending you much love.](#) (22-Oct-98 18:53:02)

Julie: [Keeping you both in my thoughts and prayers...I'm sorry the scans and exams of recent have brought such yucky news...it's so damned unfair. Love, hugs and prayers for you both.](#) (22-Oct-98 20:57:03)

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**Are you ever really ready?**

Thursday, 22-Oct-98 00:04:43

**Message:**

207.1.239.127 writes:

Tom, am so sorry that your news was not any better. It is so great that Penny has a strong person like you to lean on during these hard times. It is so hard to be strong when you too, are feeling the hurt. We are so fortunate that being saved, God will take away all our pain and give us rest and peace. Hospice will give you the quality time together that you deserve.

We went to Steak and Shake after choir, and T>J> anda buddy and girl came in. That was around 9-9:30. So he arrived and is EATING!

Take care, continue to be strong, and God will help, as He has and always will.

Joan

Joan Matyas

[Click here to reply](#)

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Juno e-mail printed Thu, 12 Feb 1998 09:07:03 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Thu, 12 Feb 1998 08:30:04 -0600  
Message-ID: <19980212.083004.11934.0.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

GOOD MORNING

I DON'T USE THE PEPPER RINGS ANYMORE JUST THE JUICE. WHEN YOU WARM THEM UP THE PEPPER GETS HARD. I HAVE PUT THEM IN A PAN WITH A LITTLE JUICE AND COOK THE TILL TENDER SO YOU CAN HAVE THEM ON YOUR SANDWICHES IF YA LIKE. I COOK THE MEAT ALL DAY IN THE CROCK POT. YOU CAN JUST PUT ALL OF IT TOGETHER THEN IF YA WANT.

PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Mon, 9 Feb 1998 07:13:48 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Sun, 8 Feb 1998 22:48:18 -0500  
Message-ID: <19980208.224819.9654.1.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

GOOD MORNING. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY. I HAVE A PRETTY BORING LIFE. I AM GOING TO PHILLY WITH TOM ON THE 23 AND BE BACK ON THE 1ST. I AM GONNA TRY AND START SOME KIND OF A JOURNAL, PEOPLE HAVE REALLY BEEN AFTER ME TO PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER. THEY SAY I AM A REAL INSPIRATION. I DO NOT KNOW WHY I AM JUST DOING WHAT IT TAKES. I DO FEEL LIKE I NEED TO SAY SOMETHING WITH THIS LATEST NEWS OF C SCAN MAYBE IT IS TIME I GET BUSY MOVING ON. I AM WATING FOR THE LORD TO TELL ME WHAT EXAXTLEY THAT IS. WELL I GOT TO GO. GOT A NEW BOOK THIS WEEK CALLED KITCHEN TABLE WISDOM.(STORIES OF HEALING).  
TALK TO YA SOON

LOVE PENNY



From: "Tom" <anglebar@apci.net>  
Return-path: <anglebar@apci.net>  
Reply-To: "Tom" <anglebar@apci.net>  
To: "Linda" <swhitney@vfr.net>, "Laura Whitlock" <luluw1959@cusave.com>, "Larry" <helm2021@aol.com>, "Jim Whitlock" <awooga@papadocs.com>, "Jim" <awooga2@apci.net>, "Heather Whitlock" <s1205906@cedarnet.cedarville.edu>, "Eric" <gtarman80@aol.com>, "Peggy" <pswpegleg@aol.com>, "Pam" <vanbev@apci.net>, "Steve" <sjtempia@apci.net>, "Matt" <msherman@sanctum.com>, "Amy" <amy.sherman@juno.com>, "Carolyn" <carolyns@egyptian.net>, "Bill" <WPeck57984@aol.com>, "Jon" <Soundman@ezl.com>, "Joan" <Camper@apci.net>, "Su" <sugruenke@prodigy.net>, "David" <dgrider1@juno.com>, "Dale" <Ausmith@apci.net>, "Dana" <dgoldsmi@uiuc.edu>, "Bill" <billg@gavinlaw.com>, "Russ" <rfitzger@uiuc.edu>, "Chad" <chadshel@apci.net>, "Larry" <collinsl@apci.net>, "Melody" <msclegg3@juno.com>, "David" <clarkdw@federal.unisys.com>, "Mom" <oangel@juno.com>, "Debby" <Siorb@aol.com>  
Date: Thu, 5 Feb 1998 06:09:09 -0600  
Subject: Good News in Fairview Heights, IL  
Message-ID: <01bd322e\$dd604440\$19ef01cf@tomangel>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3

Dear All,

Penny got great news yesterday. She had a CT scan Tuesday and Wednesday we saw the Oncologist to get the results. The scan revealed that the "multiple" tumors in her liver and lungs and DECREASED in size and there are NO NEW TUMORS PRESENT!

While she may not eagerly admit it, the nausea(all the time), diarrreah(one day), constipation(the next) and the hair loss(like a cue ball) may have been worth it.

We know that while this is a far cry from being cured or remission, we just bought some more time. I should say the insurance company bought us some more time. Her treatments are over \$1000 per week!

Thank you for your prayers and thoughts. Please keep it up because they are working.

Tom Angel  
anglebar@apci.net

Juno e-mail printed Thu, 5 Feb 1998 06:41:43 , page 1

From: teej5@juno.com (Thomas J. Angel)  
Return-path: <teej5@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Wed, 4 Feb 1998 21:08:40 -0600  
Subject: Oh, yea!  
Message-ID: <19980204.210841.18094.0.teej5@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

Aunt Mel,

Oh, yea I for got to tell you that. I'm going to go with my cousin Jimmy. (A fellow Bulls fan) As for how much the tickets cost, they were \$35 tickets that I got for the cheap price of \$175 for a grand total of \$390. Did I mention I'm living out a dream! HAHA

Sorry I didn't write back earlier, I had to go to work...

T.J.

Juno e-mail printed Wed, 4 Feb 1998 16:25:15 , page 1

From: teej5@juno.com (Thomas J. Angel)  
Return-path: <teej5@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Wed, 4 Feb 1998 17:11:28 -0500  
Subject: Bulls tickets baby!!!!!!  
Message-ID: <19980204.171128.8726.0.teej5@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

Aunt Mel,

Just wanted to write and tell you that on March 23, 1998 turn on your TV and put it on the Chicago Bulls network. If you look close you might see me. I WILL BE THERE!!! Yes I did spend way too much money, but I'm living out a dream. I don't think you could put a price on a dream. Can you?

Just wanted to tell you. Talk to you later...

T.J.

Juno e-mail printed Tue, 20 Jan 1998 09:18:21 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 1998 08:04:00 -0600  
Message-ID: <19980120.080401.12358.1.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

GOOD MORNING

I JUST MADE PLANS FOR MOM TO COME HERE ON THE 26TH OF JAN.  
I LEFT THE RETURN OPEN I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG SHE WILL WANT TO STAY. TOM  
LEAVES MONDAY MORNING WILL NOT BE BACK TILL THE 1ST OF FEB.  
SO IT IS UP TO HER. I HAD CHEM O LIVED THROUGH THAT THEN WENT AND ORDER  
NEW GLASSES LAST NIGHT I HAVE TO GO PICK THEM UP AT 10.00.  
THEY WANTED ME TO HAVE SUNGLASSES TOO, SO SINCE I HAVE NOT CHANGED MUCH  
IN VISION THEY ARE GONNA TAKE ME GLASSES I HAVE NOW AND TENT THEM FOR  
SUN. IT WILL MAKE IT A LITTLE CHEAPER. I HAD TO PAY 350.00 FOR THE  
FIRST PAIR. WELL GOT TO GO GET BUSY.

SO YOU THINK MOM IS PREPARE FOR MY NO HAIR?

LOVE YA PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Mon, 12 Jan 1998 07:00:24 , page 1

From: "Tom J Angel" <RUIANGEL@prodigy.net>  
Return-path: <RUIANGEL@prodigy.net>  
To: "Su" <sugruenke@prodigy.net>, "TJ" <teej5@juno.com>,  
"Amy" <amy.sherman@juno.com>, "Melody" <msclegg3@juno.com>, "Mom" <oangel@juno.com>  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 1998 15:54:11 -0500  
Subject: New Address for Penny this week  
Message-ID: <01bd1ed3\$114f8a00\$3b2aedcc@default>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_0033\_01BD1EA9.28798200

Content-Type: text/plain;  
charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Hey ya-all, =20

Penny and I are in beautiful Philadelphia on the 25th floor of the =  
downtown Holiday Inn.

We rented a 98 Dodge Caravan and Jim, Debbie, Penny and I left Fairview =  
Heights at 330 pm Saturday. We stopped last night at 1130pm. We got up

=  
this morning and left at 830am and got here at 2pm. It took us 13 and =  
1/2 hours and 890 miles. That's an average of almost 66 mph! Not bad.

=  
The weather is pretty nice. Probably 48-50 degrees. Not as nice as =  
Tampa but better than it could have been.

Penny will be using my email this week. Please email her and I at: =  
ruiangel@prodigy.net

I use the freebies that national internet companys send out for trial =  
offers while I'm out of town. Last time I used the free AOL service and

=  
this time I'm using Prodigy. I guess next time I guess it will be =  
Microsoft.=20

Well we are tired and hungry so were going to go out and look around for  
=  
someplace to eat. That should be an experience!

Be sure to write now...

Love ya=20  
Tom and Penny

=20

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_0033\_01BD1EA9.28798200

Content-Type: text/html;  
charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD W3 HTML//EN">  
<HTML>  
<HEAD>

Juno e-mail printed Wed, 7 Jan 1998 13:43:34 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Wed, 7 Jan 1998 09:00:46 -0600  
Message-ID: <19980107.090046.19854.0.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

GOOD MORNING. I HAD A THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WE INVITE TO MOMS BD.  
IF THEY CAN NOT ATTEND MAYBE THEY CAN SEND A BD NOTE.  
THEY CAN SEND THEM TO ME AND I WILL PUT THEM IN A SCRAP BOOK FOR MOM.  
JUST A THOUGHT.  
LOOKS LIKE I WILL BE GOING WITH TOM AND JIM WITH DEB TO PHILLY ON SUNDAY,  
WILL RETURN ON SUNDAY.  
I HAVE CHEMO ON FRIDAY, HOPEFULLY IT WILL NOT BE TOO BAD SO MY TRIP WILL  
BE DECENT.  
WE'LL GOT TO GO WANT TO TRY AND WORK A LITTLE TODAY. I AM ALSO MOVING  
FURNITURE TODAY.

TALK TO YA LATER  
LOVE PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Mon, 5 Jan 1998 14:45:34 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Mon, 5 Jan 1998 14:36:43 -0600  
Message-ID: <19980105.143644.18094.2.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.49

MEL,

I WAS HOME TILL 10.30. I WENT WITH TJ TO THE DOCTOR. THEN WE WENT TO HAVE LUNCH. I TALK TO MOM SHE SOUNDS PRETTY BAD. SHE WENT TO THE DOCTOR SATURDAY, SHE THOUGHT SHE WOULD FEEL BETTER BY NOW. SHE SLEPT IN A CHAIR SO SHE WOULD NOT START COUGHING.

I WORK A LITTLE TODAY. I START CHEMO AGAIN FRIDAY. WELL GOT TO GO I WRITE AGAIN LATER. I WISH TIM AND MOM HAD A COMPUTER SO WE CAN EMAIL THEM TOO.

LOVE PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Fri, 19 Dec 1997 06:58:35 , page 1

From: tom.angel@juno.com (Tom J Angel)  
Return-path: <tom.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 1997 06:34:28 -0600  
Subject: Re:  
Message-ID: <19971219.063429.12734.0.tom.angel@juno.com>  
References: <19971218.140710.17126.0.MSCLEGG3@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

Yes, I confess sometimes low life friends come in handy. However, it's not called DOPE. It's called PID. "Politically Incorrect Drugs".

I may have found some locally though. Should know today.

I have done some research on the net and Penny won't have to smoke it. She can make tea out of it and it does just as well. Can also make brownies if you sauteed the stuff in butter.

I am hoping this works because Penny is miserable. Stomach problems and general bad feeling all of the time.

Her DR said, hey, if nothing else, it will make her feel good. (Gee, I could use a little "feel good" too!)

I talked to her DR about a colonoscopy. The rules are that you should have one 1 year after surgery. It's been 17 months. He was not very responsive about it. He said what's the point? He said it wasn't worth putting her through. It takes 10 years for a polyp to turn malignant and 17 months ago we got whatever she had. He didn't say it out loud but it sounds as though she doesn't have the time left for a polyp to turn malignant. I guess knowing what I do know he makes sense. It takes 10 years for a polyp to turn malignant. However, once it spreads to other parts (like she has in the liver) they double in size in seven weeks. That's assuming there is no chemo involved. I really hate facing this reality!

By the way, you need to make sure all of the kids know they should be tested by the time they are 29 years old. They say if it could be hereditary <sp?> (and it could be) you need to be tested 10 years before the youngest member of the family was diagnosed. Pleasant thought, aye?

We'll be going to Florida Tuesday. Hope you all have a nice Christmas.

Tom



Juno e-mail printed Thu, 18 Dec 1997 14:05:36 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 1997 07:24:11 -0600  
Message-ID: <19971218.072412.3670.0.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

MEL,

UP OUT FOR THE MORING . FELLING PRETTY GOOD.  
WILL TALK LATER.

LOVE PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Mon, 8 Dec 1997 13:41:24 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 1997 07:44:31 -0600  
Message-ID: <19971208.074432.11094.0.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

MEL,

WELL IT IS MONDAY. TOM GOT HOME YESTRDAY MORNING. SOUNDS LIKE YOUR SHOPPING TRIP DID NOT GO SO WELL.. TOM SHAVED MY HEAD LAST NIGHT, I WAS GETTING HAIR EVERYWHERE. WE HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO FLORIDA FOR CHRISTMAS. TOM SAYS IF HE DON'T GO NOW HE NOT SURE WHEN HE CAN GO. HE IS GONNA BE TRAVELING SOME NOW WITH JIM. MATT GETS HIS RESULTS BACK TODAY SO I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I HEAR . WELL GOT TO GO I GONNA WORK THIS MORNING.

LOVE PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Thu, 4 Dec 1997 07:43:30 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 1997 07:32:50 -0600  
Message-ID: <19971204.073251.13454.1.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

MEL

GOOD MORNING. I AM UP AND GOING TO BREAFAST. FELLING PRETTY GOOD.  
HOPING TO WORK ON HOUSE AND DO SOME WORK TODAY., OR NAP HAVE NOT MADE UP  
MY MIND YET. NOTHING NEW HERE SO I STOP MAYBE WRITE AGAIN LATER.

PENNY

Juno e-mail printed Mon, 1 Dec 1997 07:06:07 , page 1

From: penny.angel@juno.com (Penny J Angel)  
Return-path: <penny.angel@juno.com>  
To: teej5@juno.com, anglebar@apci.net, msclegg3@juno.com,  
sugruenke@prodigy.net, rtmartin@juno.com  
Date: Fri, 28 Nov 1997 19:14:19 -0600  
Subject: New Address  
Message-ID: <19971128.191420.3638.0.penny.angel@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

Penny has a new Email address. Please be sure to correct your address book.

The new address is: penny.angel@juno.com Note that there is a "." (dot) between penny and angel.

I also have a new address. Not that anybody wants it but...

My new address is at: tom.angel@juno.com I have a dot too between tom and angel.

Penny would have done this herself but she is laying on the couch and can't reach the computer.

See-ya...

Tom (for Penny)

Juno e-mail printed Fri, 21 Nov 1997 06:58:48 , page 1

From: teej5@juno.com (Thomas J. Angel)  
Return-path: <teej5@juno.com>  
To: msclegg3@juno.com  
Date: Thu, 20 Nov 1997 15:34:29 -0600  
Subject: mel  
Message-ID: <19971120.153430.11134.2.teej5@juno.com>  
X-Status: Read  
X-Mailer: Juno 1.38

Mel,

I got your mail. I am having a bad day. Been asleep most of it, but tomorrow is another day. Talk to you later.

Love,  
Penny