



# The Messenger

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SUPPLEMENT

## "Curious" Premier

by Mary Davis

When I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, several members of FUMC witnessed my battle with breast cancer and a lot of you helped my family during the time I spent undergoing chemotherapy, radiation, and a stem cell transplant at the City of Hope (COH). It was during the time at the COH that I was thinking about how I felt perfectly healthy before my diagnosis, and here I was, at the threshold of death, undergoing a treatment that was worse than the early stages of the disease.

While I was wondering why the treatment for cancer had to be so insufferable, and the resulting side effects so life changing, I expressed my frustration to my husband Mark (a chemical engineering professor at Caltech), who was by my side for most of the therapy.

He started spending a few hours each day at the COH library reading up on cancer therapies. From this moment on, part of his research focus turned to cancer, specifically the delivery of the chemotherapy so it would only attack the cancer cells and not other cells in the body along with continuing his equally rigorous job at Caltech.

The past 12 years have been very difficult on a personal and professional level for us as Mark almost single-mindedly focused on this important research. He has formed two companies and we have weathered through the ups and downs of running a small business. But Mark never gave up.

Now, coming to the point of this - Public Television recently finished filming a documentary featuring several professors at Caltech, and Mark and his cancer research is the theme of one of the stories.

The show follows the first patient in the Phase One clinical trial of Mark's drug at the COH. While highlighting the scientific aspect, the show also focuses on the personal perspective, showing the patient's family and our family and home.

If you are interested in watching this, the show is called "CURIOUS" and will be premiering on Public Television in the Los Angeles area (KCET) on Thursday, November 15 from 9:00 -11:00 pm. There are two one-hour segments, ours being the second half of the first hour. The show will be playing in other parts of the country after the first of the year. It has already been shown in New York and Boston.

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*Note: The above article was inadvertently omitted from the current issue of The Messenger. The program "Curious" is an important story on the work and breakthroughs in the fight against cancer and features one of our own church family. We felt it necessary to publish this special update. We apologize for the omission, and hope that you will get a chance to view the program. Thank you.*

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