

A man walked quietly out of the specialist's office after hearing the news. The cancer that was attacking his liver had spread into the surrounding tissue. In addition to the radiation and chemotherapy he had already undergone, he would now start taking a new "experimental" drug that had not been approved yet. He definitely wanted a second opinion.

The second opinion met with similar results, and considering the history of cancer in his family, he was not surprised he was now having to come to terms with it. He had become a master at putting on a happy face in spite of the disease that was slowly killing him. At events in which he had to be in the presence of other people, he refrained from taking his medication. He was convinced that the meds would kill him more quickly than the cancer. In fact, when the time came for his 2 week vacation from work, he did not even take the bottle with him. His wife did not even make the connection he had 'forgotten' his medication until they were already on the flight to visit her family.

His wife had grown up in an Amish community and had given up her life with them to marry him. He felt it was only fair to give up his two weeks of vacation to be with her family. He was not looking forward to life without air conditioning, television, and hot showers. He was debating with himself on the flight which modern convenience he would miss most. Since it was the middle of August, he was convinced it would be the AC.

He spent the next two week visiting with his wife's family, helping with work on the farm, and adjusting to life without electricity; not exactly what he would call a vacation. The home-cooked meals and hospitality certainly made up for it; at least, that is what he told himself. He also enjoyed the fact that no one from work could call him since his cell phone did not work anywhere while on the trip.

When he returned home, it was time to go in for another check-up. When the doctor looked at the results of his tests, he found something optimistic. The tests showed that the cancer was now only contained in the liver again. The doctor took this as a good sign that the new medication was working. The man did not want to admit he had purposefully refrained from using the new medication while he was gone-- against the doctor's orders. He chose to keep silent and let the doctor have his little victory. He looked forward to telling his wife the good news, but his story would be put on hold when he got home. His wife was on the phone with tears in her eyes when he got home. He made the connection by listening to the remainder of her conversation that her mother had passed away.

The couple found themselves on another flight back to the place they had just left. He was able to use his sick days to get another two weeks off from work. He could not help but think that it would have been more convenient if her mother had passed away during their vacation. He did not verbalize this to anyone for obvious reasons. When the couple returned home, he still had not told her about the results. Since he had another check-up coming up soon, he just decided to wait and tell her later.

When the doctor was examining the results, he was amazed that there was no sign of any cancer. As far as he could tell, the man was completely cured. The doctor was excited because the new drug he had prescribed was making dramatic changes. The man finally admitted to the doctor he had not been taking the drug for about a month. He explained that he had spent the last four weeks with his wife's family in an Amish community. The doctor dismissed this as a coincidence. However, the man could not help wondering if just maybe the freedom from any and all electrical devices might have had something to do with his cancer disappearing. He told his wife about the news and his theory.

Although she partly thought he was crazy, she complied and agreed to avoid using any appliance that would create electromagnetic waves. She asked him, "What about work?"

Don't you use computers all day long?" He did not want to quit his job over this experiment and so he decided to stop the use of electronic devices at home, but would go to work as normal. He also could not live without air conditioning, but every other aspect of his life would change.

When he went for another check-up, the doctor informed him that the cancer had returned. He explained that it was not as large as it was last time, but the cancer was still there. The doctor encouraged him to begin his treatments again. The man refused, confident that he had found the cure for cancer. He thought to himself, "it must have been his time at work sitting at the computer that caused the cancer to return." He was so confident his cure would work, he declared to those sitting in the waiting room "I have found the cure for cancer. If you avoid electrical devices and work really hard on a farm, your cancer will leave you." By the time security came and removed him, he almost had a little 7 year old boy convinced.

He went home and explained to his wife that he was ready to quit his job and find a home close to her family. He explained to her that his cancer had returned, but he was sure it was because he had not completely given up his lifestyle. The flight back to his wife's family was the last time the man ever watched television. The program they were showing on the flight was a talk show. It featured a sad story about a couple who's daughter has been battling cancer for years. The man's heart was saddened by the child's cancer. He hoped that the little girl's family would be fortunate enough to find the cure someday as he had. As the flight was coming to an end and monitor flipped back up, the man thought about how this was most likely the last time he would experience television or air conditioning.

The couple got a letter 15 years later from a man they did not know. When they opened the letter, it said:

*Dear Crazy Man,*

*Thank you for saving my life.*

*Sincerely,*

*James Murphy (The little boy in the waiting room)*