

## **More Than Mere Survival**

*Stephen Leake, October 2010*

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Contra dancing; movement, music, joy

Canoe trips; sun, water, far from civilisation; fun!

Hemocult; **positive**

Colonoscopy; **positive!**

Cancer; gnawing at my guts

Surgeons wielding knives; a reprieve

Nurses wielding blankets and smiles; comfort

Radiologists wielding x-rays; prevention?

**Gratitude for being alive!**

Blueberries at Big Meadow; an interlude

Oncologists wielding toxic drugs; debilitation, prevention?

Hair falling out; shock

You said it wouldn't!

**How dare you lie to me!**

Mismanaged expectations - eroding trust - eroding hope

Stairs? no; elevator

Still, gratitude for being alive

But

I deserve more than mere survival

Diarrhea; constant companion

Nerve damage; cold, painful, clumsy feet; will never go away

Delicious fresh baked wheat bread; poison

"Take B12 shots for the rest of your life; we killed those cells by mistake"

Why is this happening?

TV characters get cancer; next season they are fine

Web search cancer; permanent side effects are common!

**How dare you sanitize cancer!**

**Mismanaged expectations - eroding trust - eroding hope**

Web search oxaliplatin;

"Minor statistical difference in overall survival"

"The incidence of grade 3 or grade 4 events was 70 percent"

**How dare you give me this drug!**

Stairs; yes. but

Contra dancing; **no**

Canoe trips; **no**

Gratitude for being alive

**Outrage** for being abused!