

# Life updates

Last year during my second semester of pregnancy I became very sick: from flu, cold, COVID all the way to pneumonia. Finally on Nov 7 2022, we went to the ER, and after spending many hours at the hospital, we were told I had a big tumour inside of my left lung. At first things got really scary—there were even talks of termination of the pregnancy. It was by far the worst week of my life. We were finally referred to a doctor, who ultimately supported our decision to wait for the end of pregnancy to proceed to any treatment for me. We were given a diagnosis: the tumour is a very rare cancer called Carcinoid, and not smoking or genetically-related. It is almost like winning the lottery in the worst way possible.

After a stressful end of pregnancy and the arrival of our beautiful and healthy baby Clarissa, my treatment started (I had my first imaging test 5 days after her arrival). The treatment decision was to remove part of or completely my left lung, lymph nodes and go from there. The prognostics are very good ahead of my journey, but more exams will have to follow and surgery recovery.

I write to you two days after my thoracotomy surgery. I do not recommend that you Google it, but I will say that it is major, scary, and I feel very blessed to be here writing to you now. Many people have been praying, many people have been helping us and caring for us. There are no words to thank you all for everything. It has been a wild ride, with many ups and downs. But on the midst of it, I see God helping me. Clarissa and Eduardo are my blessings from heaven, my sister/friend/all together Gigi Anderson has been my angel, helping us in all the practical stuff that we would not be able to do by ourselves. We also had Lorraine Kaija, with her deep care and generosity throughout not only these last months, but since we moved to Canada. There have been so many more people; I can't name all, but thank you!

Thank you, thank you and thank you.

Prayers, food, cards, gifts to us and our baby, calls, texts and positive thoughts.

Psalm 23 1-3: The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake

From your sister in Christ, Daniela.