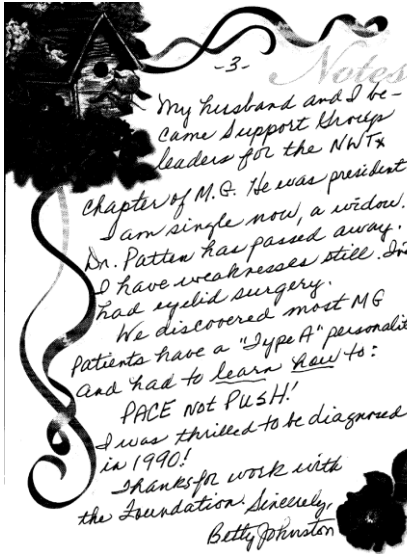


Betty Johnston – “PACE not PUSH!”



I have MG in remission. It took 23 years to get a diagnosis. I too was ready to give up, but knew something was wrong. I was given meds for depression, sent to psychiatrists, given B₁₂ injections for energy. Meanwhile, I had a “balance problem” and had inner ear surgery. My eyelids had to be taped open for me to see. I became weaker & weaker, especially my legs & arms—wheelchair ahead?

Dr. Bernard Patten came from Houston, TX and gave a “free clinic” in Amarillo, TX for a 12 year old girl who lost her life to MG. Her parents attended the clinic in her memory. Dr. Patten had developed a test to prove MG. A 15 minute appointment and he confirmed my diagnosis.

Two days later I had a thymectomy at Methodist Hospital in Houston. I was in the ICU for 10 days—101 sutures. I

was put on Imuran afterwards which was not needed. My husband and I became Support Group leaders for the NW TX chapter of MGFA. He was president.

I am single now, a widow. Dr. Patten has passed away. I have weaknesses still. I’ve had eyelid surgery. We discovered most MG patients have a “Type A” personality and had to learn how to: PACE not PUSH! I was thrilled to be diagnosed in 1990! Thanks for your work,

Betty