

MY STORY ABOUT BREAST CANCER



God is good and He was truly with me going through breast cancer.

I am a survivor. I had breast cancer surgery, lumpectomy (tumor removed) on January 13, 2011. I had a stage 1 cancer. I never felt any lumps at all, it was found because of my annual check up, mammogram. I have a strong faith in God and of course I was shocked I had the cancer in my body, and was told it had been in me for 8-10 years before it got big enough to be seen in mammogram. I had a peace from God going through this cancer journey and many prayers went up for me and I had my own faith that God was going to get me through this. He did !!!

In surgery they removed the tumor, it was the size of the tip of my little finger. In surgery they went in and cut 3 inches deep and at least 2 ½ inches wide. I was told that the tumor was tiny, when I looked at my finger tip it did not look tiny to me. Also, the surgeon removed a lymph node to see if any cancer cells had spread to them. If cancer cells were found in lymph nodes that meant chemotherapy, I sure did not want to go through that. Surgery was day surgery. I came out of

recovery with no effects at all, like I had not been in major surgery. I was very surprised. I felt like I do every morning when I wake up. I was told that after surgery I would have pain and not feel good for 1-2 weeks and given 2 kinds of pain pills. I woke up the next day after the surgery, no pain at all. Not long ago I had a nail break and it hurt. I should have had pain from this surgery. I had lymph node removed under my arm and that is a 2 ½ inch cut. No pain under my arm either. I am still so amazed no pain from surgery. I should have had pain. Also, because a lymph node was removed, I was told I would most likely not be able to move my arm up and down and would need to exercise my arm and maybe have therapy to get my arm moving all the way. I was concerned because I do sign language to worship at church and other christian groups. I never had any problem with moving my arm at all. God was with me and many prayers went up for me going through this.

I had radiation in April 2011. I went 6 1/2 weeks for 5 days a week. A friend said, "Roxanne lets pray that God would not let radiation destroy any good cells and only destroy bad cells." So, I had other pray that also. All my doctors told me with radiation, my skin would change, be dimpled because of the burning of radiation and I would shrink in size on the side I was having radiation done. I was told I would blister, be in pain, be tired, might not be able to wear a bra and need to put ointment on it. Some people have to take a break from radiation for a bit and recover before continuing. Radiation is like taking a steak and putting it in the hot sun outside and letting it fry. The steak would have a tough texture, and shrink in size from the heat. So that was what I had to look forward to. But, I put my faith in God again. I joined a cancer support group at UNM Cancer Center, which has helped me and supported me also. There are so many nice people in that group that have gone through different kinds of cancer and women that had gone through breast cancer. I was told what to expect going through radiation. I was not looking forward to radiation, and being blond, I was told I would burn more than darker skinned women. But, I prayed and others prayed and believed God was going to get me through this too, and He did. I did not blister, I did not get tired, I did not hurt, I did not shrink, my skin did not change. I did get a little bit red but not much. Some ladies said radiation is worse than chemotherapy.

All my doctors were amazed at how I looked going through radiation. I was told by my surgeon, "You must have very good skin." It was not my skin being good, it was God. Good cells were saved. I did not look like I had radiation and never really felt like I had it either. I wish I had pictures of faces of doctors that saw me, so shocked at how I looked and in less than 6 months after surgery, also my scars from surgery could hardly be seen.

I just encourage women to have faith in God going through cancer or any

sickness or disease. And I am also encouraging woman to get mammograms every year. If I had skipped my mammogram in 2010 it sure could have been a different story, tumor would have been bigger and may have spread to lymph nodes. In my work as an insurance sales person, I go over benefits and mammograms and pap smears are part of benefits, so I encourage those who have not had them ever or very often to get them, I share my story, so God is even using what I went through in my work. I may never know who get mammograms because of sharing, but God does.

Here are some comforting scriptures God put in my heart going through my cancer journey. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. "Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. " We can comfort others when we go through something like cancer or other trials. Also, Isaiah 41:10 "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." God did hold me and strengthen me.

There is power in having faith in God and from prayers. I had peace most all of the time. I feel like I went through cancer treatment but didn't. Like being in a fire and not get burned, that is a bible story in Daniel 3:19-30, in the story 3 men got thrown in an very hot fiery furnace because they did not bow to a false god, the men did not get burned , no hair was scorched, and they did not smell like smoke, others saw another man, a fourth man in the fire with them, it was an angel protecting them. I was protected also and did not suffer. I praise God and love Him for what He did for me and He can do it for others too. Trust Him. He is a good God and is always with us in what ever we go through. A song was put in my heart after surgery and it is called "God Will Make A Way," it goes, " God will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me." He did make a way, and I love Him.

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