

MARLENE MATHEY : 13 JANUARY 2020

This was written on her Facebook profile

This is my story...

In 2015 I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. This was a major shock as I was screening for breast cancer. As most of you know my twin sister Lydia lost her battle with breast cancer almost 18yrs ago. We have a genetic mutation the BRCA1, which increases your risk of breast and/or ovarian cancer significantly.

With this diagnosis, I knew that a positive attitude was crucial! I gathered I'm strong and fit and I can do this!

Cancer picked the wrong girl!!!

I agreed to conventional treatment, chemo followed by surgery followed by more chemo. I went to see a nutritionist who advised me on diet and supplements. I can say I almost breezed through treatment and was in remission for two years until the next bomb dropped in 2017... I was feeling well, I was fit, I was strong. It was a regular screening that showed an increase in my tumor marker count... a CT scan confirmed that the cancer had recurred and had metastasized within my abdominal cavity.

I do not recall how many tumors they found or how big they were... what I do recall is being angry at God... asking why me? Why did I have to go through this again? I really questioned the goodness and love of God... I was angry... I did not want to see that God helps us cope with difficulties by delivering peace, hope, comfort, strength, and stamina, as we walk in harmony with him. I did not want to see that He produces goodness from our suffering, both in our lives and in the lives of those within our sphere of influence.

I did not want to see that He resolves our situation in accordance with the designs and objectives of his plans for us and for the people around us. I did not want to see any of that... I was simply too angry...

So again I followed conventional treatment... chemo this time was harder due to the accumulative affect from previous treatment. I got through it and was once again in remission... I was accepted onto a compassionate care program and was sponsored a daily chemo drug that was supposed to be very effective in preventing further recurrence... this was my lifeline... It was however not meant to be. In September 2019 I was re-diagnosed for the 3rd time. A CT/PET scan confirmed metastasis to my spleen and a few spots in the peritoneum around my liver. I was devastated by the news! I went home and cried... I felt like I was handed a death sentence. Chemotherapy will not cure my cancer they said... this will be a lifelong battle till the very end they said... my world literally fell apart...

In my desperation I looked up and prayed, I asked God what His purpose for me was, I asked how I could serve Him through this ordeal... surely there had to be a meaningful reason for all of this?? Coming face to face with the possibility of death changes your perspective on living life to the fullest.... making every moment count...

In that moment of complete desperation between me and God, I felt in the quietness of my soul, God's voice saying to me, I need to look to Him, I need to seek Him first and there I will find my peace, His peace that transcends all understanding..

I realized at that moment that I am not in control, God is in control and it was complete surrender for me. I believe God always works things out for the good of those who love Him. In seeking Him my fears of the unknown melted away... when I do feel fear, as I am only human, I remind my soul whose child I am... and once again I feel His peace and love come over me..

I wake up each morning grateful for the life I have had, for the years I have been gifted with my children and my parents and friends. It could so easily have been me 18yrs ago and I am grateful to have had these years and the years still to come..

I am grateful for having my parents around who have been there for me every step of the way. My mom fighting esophageal cancer at the same time, being my absolute inspiration to keep fighting. I am grateful for my children, every family member and every single friend, who has supported me, prayed for me and my family, brought me food, sent me a message with a caring thought.. thank you to you all!

My God is good when I reflect on all these people, you have all touched my life immeasurably and I thank God that our paths have crossed!

Our lives are all terminal, but I want to extend that terminal moment as far into the future as possible. While I am not afraid to die because I have peace in my heart with my eternal destiny, I very much want to keep on living, and I declare in Jesus name that I want to live and be a testimony to as many as possible for as long as possible. I want to be an inspiration and a mentor to those who have lost hope and peace. Our lives have meaning and value. There is always hope to be found.

I have prayed about alternative options to maintain 'remission' once my chemotherapy is done. I needed something I can afford as I have realized in my research that alternative therapies come at a high price and is not covered by Medical Aid.

I am not saying that what I found is the answer to the cure of cancer as my ultimate hope and faith lies with Jesus and His will and purpose for my life...

I do however feel I have an obligation to share what I have found with my fellow cancer warriors...

If you know of someone who has cancer, please share the links below with them. Please give them my number or FB link so that we can inspire each other in our journeys and that we can live our life's purpose on this earth and be a blessing to those around us..

Here are the links...

<https://www.mycancerstory.rocks/>

<https://www.howtostarvecancer.com>Jane McLelland: How to Starve Cancer

Join these FB pages, they are full of inspiration and invaluable information to help us on our journey...

Please share my story with anyone you know who has cancer...

Amazing news just in!!!!

My mom has just received news that her scan shows NED (no evidence of disease) I am grateful for all your prayers and thank God for His love, mercy and grace the He bestows on us daily 🙏
To Him be all the glory!!!!