

My Survivor's Story

I have never really just thought about my testimony in great detail, but I do know that everything that we go through has its purpose. No one wants to hear the words “You have Stage II A Breast Cancer”. However on January 14, 2016 I had the unfortunate pleasure of hearing those frightful words. I never knew what type of journey I was in for at the time, but it would all make sense later.

When we think of cancer, we tend to think that life is over. That's far from the truth. When I was 12 years old my mother, Harriet S. McKenzie, passed away from metastatic breast cancer in January of 1994. So my understanding of cancer was extremely scary. Knowing the fears that she had of chemotherapy, losing hair, possibly losing her breasts, feeling very ill, and other factors that come with the disease, helped me with some of the choices I made for treatment. I made sure to ALWAYS do self-examinations in the shower every time, because we know that early detection saves lives. It was on my birthday November 22, 2015 that I felt a lump in my left breast and that's where my journey began.

I immediately contacted my gynecologist to see what I needed to do and he referred me to my general surgeon who did a biopsy and within a week laid the news on me. Finding something like this out was shocking but I couldn't cry. God had already told me that He would take care of me but that I would have to go through this process to get me to where he has me purposed to be. I instantly called my sister, who is an intercessor at our church, went over to her house and layed on my face for prayer. I knew that I was in for a fight. Especially being that my surgeon told me that I had triple negative breast cancer, which means that no subtle treatment would work. They would then need to give me the most aggressive medications that they could to shrink the tumor and I would need to start chemotherapy Asap. I literally started that next week.

Treatment was terrible but I tried hard to stay in good spirits. If it were not for my children and I going through this process basically alone with no real family help, I do not know where I'd be. I know God intercepted what the enemy had planned to be for the bad. Glory!!! My treatment took six months for us to beat this monster. That would be rigorous chemotherapy

treatment that included bone marrow strengthening shots, plus medication to help keep me calm. I would literally have anxiety attacks every time I had to sit in “the chair”, as I called it. I would later in August of the same year undergo a double mastectomy. That is were they remove both breasts to get rid of all cancer cells that were in the infected breast. We, as a family unit, got through it and it made us so strong. I looked at my kids and thought to myself, “I know my momma didn’t fight because she was scared, but these kids are depending on me to fight”. Looking at their faces brought me so much joy and pushed me to go harder. I would never want my kids to feel how I felt when my mother left. No Way!

When get through something as big as cancer, you tend to feel like you can conquer any and everything. I’ve had so many dreams and goals that I just sat on and they laid dormant in me because prior to cancer I had every excuse in the world to not go for it. Well, that time is up!! I beat that monster ,with the GREAT assistance of my Father in heaven, and now I am coming after EVERYTHING that the enemy tried to keep me from. I am claiming all things that I have dreamt about. I AM an author, I AM a model, I AM an actor and more importantly I AM a light! I feel as though my purpose in life it to let other women know that there IS life after breast cancer. And IT IS BEAUTIFUL!!! I have had so many opportunities present themselves because I took that first step of faith and GOD has honestly done the rest.

I stepped out of fear and took my first flight to New York, all by myself, and went to support my Spiritual Mother at her modeling event. I cried when I was watching all these beautiful women of all shapes come together for a real live fashion show. Before then I had only seen things like this on tv. I walked around the event and networked and gave Kudos to all the models that I could. I was excited!! It stirred something up inside of me. I had the great pleasure of hearing a woman by the name, Donna Franklin, give a little testimony after the event was over about how she too survived breast cancer, and also how she was the CEO of her very own fashion magazine. I thought to myself, now here is a woman who beat cancer and still went after her dreams. Now CeCe, what are you waiting for? After the show I introduced myself to her and let her know that I am a survivor as well. We spoke briefly, but before we parted she told me that I would be in one of her shows. I was extremely elated! I was like, I didn’t even tell her that I was a model. All I could say was “Yes Ma’am”.

My second trip to the East was for a casting call and to meet people that Ms. Donna told me she wanted me to meet. I got a chance to meet the Great John Blassingame and She especially wanted me to meet a woman she called “Star”. When meeting Star, Chandra Williams, it was so much good energy that I started crying AGAIN. She embraced me as if she has known me forever. She encouraged me and told me I was beautiful and told me that I got this. I was in awe because felt like, MY GOD, this is what I must’ve went through all of this for. I am excited to know that I will be walking in the 1st Annual Breast Cancer Survivor Fashion Show & 3rd Annual Artist Showcase. If my mother could see me now, she would be so proud.

If I could describe myself in 3 words in would be courageous, relentless, and faithful. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to beat anything of this magnitude. I made the choice to be relentless because in being stubbornly relentless, it gave me this unceasing determination to win. Lastly, I am faithful because I trusted every word that God spoke to me in telling me that HE will see me through this. He also told me to be faithful to my kids and to myself. I always tell people that have survived that we have had three lives. Once when we were young and wild. The second, which is most important, when we gave our lives to Christ. The third, is when we survived Breast Cancer to live life ON PURPOSE!!