

Angela Charpentier Boykin



Hello, my name is Angela Charpentier Boykin. I am a Christian and a 43 year-old mother of five. My husband Tally and I have resided in the Baldwin, Louisiana area for 23 years.

On May 12, 2006, I was diagnosed with a rare “base of tongue” cancer identified as an “Adeno Cystic Carcinoma.” Upon subsequent visits to a team of ENT (head & neck) surgeons at UMC in Lafayette, I was advised that this form of cancer would not respond to chemo. That first radiation and then possibly surgery were the recommended course of treatment. In July of 2006, I began a schedule of two a day radiation treatments that eventually totaled 58, ending August 21, 2006. Twice the treatments were stopped to give my inner throat and mouth “a break” and at one point I was put on a high dosage morphine patch for a few days. Through this time of “treatment” I lost a great deal of weight, having lost the ability to swallow and eventually had a “peg” feeding tube inserted in my stomach around September 5, 2006, which I still have to this day.

On or about November 26, 2006, my husband and I traveled to Shreveport, LA for a “pet” scan which showed me to be free of cancer cells. I continued visits to the oncology clinic where the radiation was done. The question came “why isn’t my tongue/throat healing?” A biopsy taken at UMC February 26, 2006, confirmed a recurrence of the tumor. Subsequent visits before the “cancer team” at UMC led us to Earl K. Long hospital in Baton Rouge where a “radical neck dissection w/ flap” was ultimately proposed to rid my body of this tumor (cancer). This surgery would prove very costly to me both physically and emotionally meaning the (probable) loss of all of my tongue, epiglottis voice box, and lymph nodes on both sides of my neck leaving me unable to speak or even breathe through my mouth with a permanent “trachea” and “peg” feeding tube for the rest of my life, and a “5%-30% survival rate” according to one doctor. Neither my husband nor I felt any peace about this “path of treatment” or “cure” but only fear and confusion.

My husband and I began praying long and hard about this surgery, not believing this to be God’s will for my life. (...for He is not the author of confusion, but of peace). Between mid May 1st surgery refused and 2nd by June 9, 2007, I had seen a number of practitioners and physicians who we believe we were led to of the Lord- beginning a cleansing – detoxification – proper diet and immune system rebuilding regimen that has seen my “whole body” health increase dramatically.

However, the tumor continued to grow in my throat and on July 10, 2007, I began an “herbal medicine” (naturopathic) regimen under physicians care that has the tumor dying and shrinking in my throat, but I had to undergo a tracheotomy surgery July 23, 2007, because the tumor was beginning to affect my breathing when I slept (loss of breath). I believe the trach is merely “buying time” for the herbal regimen to finish killing the tumor completely. I feel very confident about the future, and believe the Lord will eventually see me totally healed and without this “trachea” in my throat and “peg” tube in my stomach. Although it’s only been a little over a year, this has been a real test on myself and my family – physically – emotionally and financially- but God is faithful and has provided for us in every area throughout this time even now through the Bright Light Foundation.

I look forward to my total healing, that I may be able to share my story and see others encouraged, delivered, and healed. May God bless you and keep you.

Gratefully and sincerely yours,

Angela C. Boykin