



Bright Light Foundation

Dennis Scott Ramsey

2010 BLF Recipient



Dennis Scott Ramsey, known to everyone as Scott, was born November 21, 1946 was employed in the Oil and Gas industry for over twenty years until he became ill in 2007. Scott has been a Type 1 Diabetic for thirty-seven years. Scott has been married to his wife, Gina, for nine years. They live in the Houston/Fort Bend County area.

November 5, 2007 Scott was admitted to SW Memorial Hermann Hospital with an infection due to an open sore on the bottom of his foot. While he was in the hospital having tests run, the doctors noticed that his feet had serious circulation problems. The doctor decided to consult a Cardiologist to do testing. They finally discovered a 90 percent blockage in three areas of his heart. If Scott hadn't gone to the hospital for the infection in his foot, he would have died of a massive heart attack within a year. The Ramseys were thankful to God that he allowed them a warning so that Scott could receive help.

November 16, 2007 Scott had a triple bypass. After his surgery, he suffered Flash Pulmonary Edema (fluid in his lungs). He was put on a ventilator and stayed in ICU for two weeks. Luckily, Scott doesn't remember any of his time in ICU. Everything that could have happened did happen. While in ICU he had to have two rounds of Dialysis. Scott's kidney levels were bad and the doctor wasn't sure that he wouldn't have to receive dialysis treatments from then on. With lots of prayer and a kidney doctor with a deep faith in God's healing, Scott's kidneys got better and did not have to have any further treatments. After this scare, Gina received a call one morning while Scott was still in ICU stating that Scott's chest had opened up while he was coughing. The doctor had to go in and rewire everything in Scott's chest. Again, God had his hands on Scott and he pulled through the surgery. There was a great risk of internal infection where they rewired his chest. It took the doctors a long time to wean Scott off of the ventilator while in ICU. He had a temporary tracheotomy at this point. After he was put into a regular room, trouble came knocking again. The chest wound that had been rewired and sewn

together became infected with MRSA, an infection resistant to many antibiotics. The chest site became inflamed and became an abscess. When it burst, the doctor had to do surgery to clean out all the infected area. A large wound that went all the way to his chest bone was left. The doctor said that if it hadn't drained out, but had drained into his chest, he would have died. This was yet another miracle. He was put on various drugs to combat the infections. God healed him again.

Since then, Scott has been in and out of the hospital two or three times in two years and had at least four surgeries. It took over a year for his chest wound to heal. Scott now uses a permanent trach because scar tissue formed over his vocal chords due to having been on the ventilator so long. A tracheal resection was done and a stint was put in to hold the scar tissue back so that he could breathe and talk. The surgery was unsuccessful and the scar tissue grew back. Just this last month, August 2010, Scott had an appointment with a throat specialist. The doctor said that the scar tissue was too extensive and Scott's health was too fragile to do surgery. The doctor sent him to a speech therapist and Scott now has an electro larynx with which to speak. He will still have a permanent trach with which to breathe.

After getting Scott home and well after the original surgeries and infections, Scott fell while stepping off of a curb. The trip to the hospital was a blessing because it was found that Scott still had infection in his system. After he had surgery on his arm and elbow he was moved to a rehabilitation clinic and had a months worth more of antibiotics. The day he was to go home, he fell in the bathroom at the rehabilitation facility and broke the same arm again. This time they could not do surgery. It was a clean break and they recast him and had to stay longer.

While all of this was happening, the Ramseys had to move from their trailer to an apartment in Houston. Scott eventually was awarded Social Security Disability. Scott and Gina lost their insurance and had to pay out of pocket for all medical expenses for a year. They lost their vehicles and are now depending on their sweet friends Ann and Richard Gardner from church to help them with getting to doctor appointments and to run errands.

Scott is now receiving Medicare which started in May 2010. Although Scott is covered, Gina is still without insurance and is unable to work due to not having transportation. Gina has been taking care of her husband full time for three years. Scott still has a hand that requires surgery due to his previous falls. Rehabilitation for a frozen shoulder and surgery for his hand is coming up in the near future. Even with Medicare and Disability, the Ramseys still struggle to pay their bills, to pay for their medications and to put food on the table each month. They are taking everything one day at a time and leaning on their faith that the circumstances will get better. Scott is alive and a living testimony to God's healing power. He is a walking miracle. The Ramseys wish to thank the Bright Light Foundation for choosing Scott as a recipient of their charitable organization.