

Edward Tucker



My name is Edward Tucker and I am a residence of Louisiana and have worked in the oilfield for 28 years. Working in the oilfield has been a very important part of my life. However, in January of 2006, my career came to an unexpected turn.

Upon visiting my doctor for a regular check-up, I was told that my Hypertension was very high and that I needed to have some blood tests ordered. While sending in the blood work orders, my doctor thought it would be a good idea to order x-rays of my kidneys. When the tests returned, it showed that I had a mass on my left kidney. Not knowing if the mass was cancer or not, I was then referred to a urologist for a second opinion. The same results returned to my urologist and he then diagnosed the mass as renal cancer.

After further study of my kidney function, I was told that I needed to have my left kidney removed and that my right kidney was not functioning well enough to filter my body of toxic material. I was then referred to a cardiologist. My cardiologist then surgically implanted a port in my upper-chest to prepare my body for dialysis. Weeks later I underwent another surgery, this time to have an a/v fistula implanted in my left arm. This fistula will allow direct access to my artery and vein for regular dialysis treatment. By April 2006, I had undergone my third surgery. This surgery was to remove the cancerous kidney. Immediately after removal of the kidney, the surgeon noticed that the kidney had not just one mass, but two. Recovery went as well as expected. Three days after this surgery I started my first dialysis treatment (in the hospital). I am still under the care of a nephrologist, cardiologist, and urologist.

From this day on, I have dialysis treatments three days a week for four hours per day. I am told that I cannot be considered as a candidate for a transplant until I am cancer-free for five years. As a dialysis patient with other medical conditions, I must keep faith in God and appreciate the help of others to get me through everyday.

In July 2007, I was nominated as a (voluntary) spoke person for the Southern chapter of dialysis. This position consists of encouraging other dialysis patients to take charge of their condition and to learn all that one can about their sickness. I also speak with family members of new patients to help establish their understanding of being a dialysis patient and answer any questions that I can.

I would like to send special thanks to the Bright Light Foundation and all sponsors for their help and for selecting me as a 2007 recipient. May God continue to bless this foundation and may they continue to help families like mine. Thanks again to all.

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