

# Lisa Sehon Fournet

---



Hello, my name is Lisa Sehon Fournet. I was born and raised in Abbeville, La. This is where I, also, met my wonderful and handsome husband, Bill Fournet. We have been married 26 years and have two children, Cody Jake, age 20 yrs. And William Luke, age 16 yrs. Bill and I consider the boys our greatest blessing.

The oil field business has always been a significant part of my life. My father has worked off shore and overseas all of my life. He was an employee for many years and is now a retiree of one of the Bright Light Foundation sponsors, Global Santa Fe. My husband, Bill, began his career in the oil field business, as a young adult, working in various divisions of the business, from offshore to sales. He is still presently employed by a business in the oil field.

My battle with cancer began in August of 2007 when I felt a lump under my right arm. Being quite an active person, I thought that I had just pulled or strained a muscle. A week later I noticed a lump on the outside of my right breast. Out of concern, I called my obgyn, Dr. Daniel Bourque, and had my mammogram on the closest date available. The mammogram results revealed a mass in my breast, making a needle biopsy necessary. The biopsy was performed on 9-11-07. The next day, 9-12-07, I was informed of my diagnosis of stage 3 breast cancer.

Bill and I were devastated. I had a mammogram and my annual physical, including any necessary tests religiously every year. It is hard to believe that cancer can develop so quickly. I couldn't believe this was happening to me. I thought, "Ok, God, I know you are right here beside me. Let's take this journey together."

We went home to tell our children that their mom has cancer. This can't be easy for anyone. The boys seemed to take the news ok. I don't think they actually realized or knew how serious this was. I guess we don't always explain all the details of tragedy to our kids because we don't want them to worry about us.

My first appointment after the diagnosis was with Dr. Paul Breaux, one of the finest surgeons in Lafayette. Dr. Breaux proved to be my first blessing on this path to healing. He was very nice and I could tell that he was a competent and accountable physician.

Dr. Breaux referred me to an oncologist, Dr. Karen Roden. It was necessary that I begin chemo treatment immediately. Dr. Roden and her staff were great, also. Her nurse practitioner, Tracy Broussard, made me feel at home.

My treatment was every 2 wks. For 4 months. I called my treatment "my download". The nurse got a kick out of that. The staff and nurse said things to me like, "you have such a good attitude, and how do you keep your upbeat laughing self so happy?" I told them it was God, and that there was no other explanation.

The chemo was rough, but I got through it. I don't think I could have gotten through this without the help of my family and friends. They have been here from the beginning and have never let me down. Another blessing, don't you think?

My husband has been my mountain. He says I'm his rock and asks me how I keep going? I tell him with his love and God, everything is possible.

God continued to be with me through the next medical procedure necessary, a double mastectomy. Tests for detecting cancer cells were administered. Was the chemo treatment a success? Test results proved it was. But the removal of my right breast and lymph nodes was still necessary. The decision to remove my left breast was a difficult one, but I knew that there was a greater chance of cancer returning without a double mastectomy. I didn't want to worry about cancer returning and my doctors assured me that my decision was the correct one. The surgery and the recovery was painful and I was limited in my ability to care for myself and my family. Again God blessed me with the help of my loving family members and friends.

The double mastectomy was not easy for me to accept. I seemed to have a different outlook on life and felt a substantial loss. Even though they are only breasts, when you are born with them, you kind of miss them when they are gone!

# Lisa Sehon Fournet (continued)

---



My husband guarantees me that he loves me no matter what, and I believe him. He told me that I didn't have to have reconstruction surgery for him, that he loves me for being me. I told him that I knew that was true, but that I did want the reconstruction surgery. In my own words to bill, "I would like to have them back, if that's ok with you." Bill's response was "no problem".

After the mastectomies, radiation was administered to me 5 days a week for 6 weeks. This was not as unpleasant as chemo treatments. Having another wonderful doctor helped. I am referring to Dr. Maitland deland, my radiology oncologist. She is devoted, caring, and giving. Dr. Deland sat and talked to me for as long as it took. She is another blessing that god has sent to me. She and her staff have a way of making me feel right at home. That is an awesome feeling anytime, but especially when I have to be "zapped" (may term for radiation) everyday.

Radiation does burn my skin some, but it is not anything that I can't get through. I know that there are others in worse situations than me.

Let me say that we have to find the good in everything bad, the positive in the negative, and why be sad when we can be happy!

Twelve weeks after my last radiation "zap", a ct scan will be administered to prove that all the cancer is gone. I know that it is gone because god has told me that it is gone. But we still have to administer the scan for medical documentation.

God does have a plan for me. I think it is to help and encourage others that are struggling through the same thing that I have struggled through. I have already begun to share encouragement with other cancer patients.

Once i am cleared by the scan results, I will start my reconstruction. It is a three stage procedure that will be performed in new orleans by a team of three doctors, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Dellacroce, and Dr. Trahan. The awesome threesome! Together they specialize in the procedure I will have.

The procedure will be either diep flap which is taken from my abdomen or the gap flap which is taken from my gutel area. Stage one will restore my breast volume and shape. This stage is the time in which your fatty tissue is taken from the abdomen or buttocks and shaped into new breast. Stage 2 takes place 12 wks or beyond the first stage reconstruction. This stage provides nipple reconstruction, refinement of the shape of the reconstructed breast, reduction, lift, or augmentation of the opposite breast for symmetry if needed, donor site scar revision, and body contouring to achieve the highest possible aesthetic result. Stage 3 takes place 10 wks. Or more after the second stage procedure. It restores pigment medical tattooing to the reconstructed nipple areola.

For the next 5 yrs. I will take tamoxifen, a drug that blocks the hormone estrogen in certain organs ofthe body.This is necessary because the growth of some types of breast cancer are stimulated by estrogen. Tamoxifen interferes with the growth of some tumors. I will also have appointments with other doctors and have many tests and scans administered over the next 5 yrs.

It is not over yet, but it will be in time. So I will continue to trust god to lead me down each path of my journey, and I will have hope and gratitude for all of the blessings that he will bestow upon me along the way.

I would like to thank the Bright Light Foundation and all who worked together to make all of this possible. God has blessed every one of you with unique gifts. I hope you know that he uses everyone to help others in their own way.

God bless,

Lisa s. Fournet