



Bright Light Foundation

Ronald “Ronnie” Vining

2013 BLF Recipient



I am a 48 year old husband and father of four who has worked in the oil industry since 1983. I started at LeBlanc Welding and worked there until they closed. Over the years I've worked at American Weld Tech, Crown Oilfield, and Cameron, where I currently work.

One morning in March, I got up and began to get ready for work. While shaving, I noticed a small lump on the left side of my neck. I went to my family doctor and he thought it was a swollen lymph node due to a sinus infection. I was put on antibiotics and told to come back in six weeks.

Within that time, the lump grew and became mildly painful. I decided to go to an ENT and he ordered a CT scan. The doctor said according to the CT scan, he was 85 percent sure it was a

branchial cleft cyst. That was good news. He wanted to biopsy it to be sure.

On April 19, 2013, the results were in. It was CANCER! I was devastated. I was sent to Mary Bird Perkins in Baton Rouge.

I had to have two surgeries. When I was completely healed, I started treatments. I had seven weekly chemotherapy treatments and thirty-five radiation treatments. They were given daily for seven weeks. Because of where the radiation treatments were given, eating became extremely difficult. I was then hospitalized for a week.

Well, I am now three weeks post treatment and the lump is still in the process of shrinking. My doctor is closely monitoring my progress and says if the lump doesn't significantly shrink within the next six weeks, I will need a third surgery to remove the lump and other lymph nodes on that side of my neck. I am expected to make a complete recovery. Praise God



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