

William J. Guildry



My name is William J. Guidry. I have been a resident of Westlake, Louisiana for 31 years. I worked in the oilfield for 22 years. Working in the oilfield made the future brighter for me and my family. I am married and the father of two.

My family and I made visiting the doctor part of our routine through the early years. I started to have problems with hypertension. I was taken off of salt products and started on medication. The medication was changed several times before finding the correct one.

As time went on working offshore in the 80's, I noticed skin abrasions that wouldn't heal and caused burning sensations. I visited the doctor and from this point on was diagnosed with diabetes. I had to leave all sugar products alone, which wasn't easy for me. I started visiting the doctor more frequently and was prescribed even more medication.

As the years passed, hypertension and diabetes started to affect my kidney function. Later, I had biopsies on both kidneys. The early biopsies revealed the kidneys had no disease, but their functioning continued to drop. In 2005, my kidney function was down to 12%. I was told by my doctor that I was at the point to start dialysis. This news made me feel empty. I prayed. Family, friends, and others prayed for me. It brought a new meaning to life for me. A peritoneal catheter was inserted through my abdomen into the cavity in September 2005. I started dialysis at home on April 4, 2006.

I was put on the transplant list at Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas in 2006. I began the transplant evaluation. In February 2007, as part of the evaluation, I had a CT scan. The CT scan showed a small enhancing cyst in the left kidney measuring roughly 2 cm in the mid posterior area. A second scan was done locally with the same results. A radical nephrectomy was done on February 16, 2007 by Doctor Upshaw at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital. The pathological report revealed that the left kidney had renal cell carcinoma with no invasion of the surrounding tissues. Recovery went very well. Church members, friends and family continued to pray for me and others. I will re-start my transplant evaluation on February 16, 2009 (the required two year wait period post-cancer find).

When praises go up, blessings come down. May God's blessings be upon Bright Light Foundation, its Board Members and Sponsors for their help and for selecting me as a 2008 recipient. I appreciate the opportunity to share my story with all of you.

Thankfully yours,

William J. Guidry