

Hello Fight Club!

My name is Linda Lucas, I was 59 years of age when I was diagnosed with HR+ R2- breast cancer the end of May 2018 just as my husband was finishing up rehab following a heart attack and open heart surgery in February - March 2018. Though my grandmother died from breast cancer and my mother is a 20 year survivor it came as a surprise at this time in my life, so thankful that it was found in my annual mammogram for I had been having no symptoms.

My husband, Jim, and I are forever grateful to our God who clearly made sure I got in to have my mammogram because in spite of my family history I am not too regular for these kinds of appointments. I received a notice in the mail in March that I was due for my annual mammogram but I threw it away because it was really bad timing and I didn't have the time or the frame of mind to think about that while my husband was going through his heart issues. Then I received a second reminder, which I never get, to go in May. By now my husband was in rehab, only steps and an elevator away from the Women's Health Center where I go to get this done. It couldn't have been more obvious or convenient for me to go, so I went. Thanks be to God who prompted me and to the wonderful doctors and nurses at the clinic that found my cancer very early and before it had spread.

Thanks be to God again, for sending me a friend who repeatedly urged me to see her trusted surgeon and was an encouragement to me along the way. This surgeon was one of a wonderful team who worked together for my greater good and saw me through with the least amount of battles possible to give me a great outcome, as well as onco-plasti, which I am well pleased with, along with radiation and hormone treatments. Again I must say, Thanks be to God and this medical team He used to get me through this storm with 'Faith over Fear' so that I have become a survivor with a living hope and with a new perspective on life.

As I recovered from 3 surgeries in one month, to get all the cancer, I was again blessed to have a great medical team to care for me and wonderful friends to support and help me with the things I could not do. Through it all my amazing husband was at my side, every important appointment, every surgery, every drain tube and bandage, loving me and blessing me with hope and joy. I pray that my story may bless and encourage others as I have been blessed. Know that cancer doesn't have to define you, mammograms really can change the outcome of one's story and you don't have to go through the stormy battles alone.

I finished up my radiation treatments just before Thanksgiving in 2018, just in time to make our trip to Hawaii that we had scheduled just before my husband's heart attack in February. Many times we were tempted to cancel but we had been saving and planning for this trip to celebrate our 40th anniversary for a very long time and it was a light at the end of a long difficult year that ended up being a wonderful way to celebrate our anniversary and so much more. So, what started out as a very turbulent year ended up with great joy, enriched love and strengthened faith in God. Even if He hadn't given us both a new lease on life we know that His grace is more than enough to see us through anything this world sends our way as we truly does work all things together for good and that gives us a peace beyond all measure.

