



# VIRGINIA SPIGENER

“Sometimes God calms the storm and sometimes the storm rages and God calms His child. This time the storm raged...and God did calm His child.”

When Virginia heard the words, “you have cancer,” she was petrified. There is never enough preparation for the devastation that ensues after hearing that news. She instantly became a deer in headlights – paralyzed with the fear of what lay ahead. A single parent and mother of two young girls who lived with her full time, she immediately prayed over and over, “Lord, please don’t make me do this alone,” and He didn’t.

Her story is one of finding peace, hope, and courage as God worked through many people, some she knew well and called friends and family, some she barely knew, and the most wonderful gift were others she knew not at all who gave so much of their time and kindnesses for her recovery. It is also a story of the power of indefatigable encouragement and positivity.

It begins with one person, an old friend whom Virginia hadn’t seen in years. He came with a phone call, quickly gathered many friends - some Virginia’s, many his. He assigned each person a day of the week and with the responsibility of exercising alongside Virginia for the next four months while she underwent chemotherapy. Her oncologist had noted that her chance of a cancer recurrence was further reduced if she exercised during chemo treatments. Many days “exercise” simply meant a 20-minute walk. On a good day, it meant a bike ride on the Swamp Rabbit in Greenville or kayaking on Lake Summit. If it was a bad day, that friend came and sat by her bed. These friends and their sacrifices were the first of many gifts God sent to calm His child.

In addition, there were many, many others who came to visit during her treatments, who sat for hours during blood transfusions, prayed daily, sent cards, and brought wonderful meals for her, her children, and her parents who made a long drive to North Carolina for every treatment.

Again, some people Virginia knew well and some she barely knew. More gifts sent by God to calm His child.

“There were countless ways in which I found myself supported and cared for and I am forever grateful for each gesture of love and kindness,” Virginia shared. “These people and their gifts of friendship remain a very cherished gift of love rooted deep in my soul.”

Virginia reflected: “Surviving cancer means a second chance at a life that would otherwise have been cut short. I am so grateful for this second life.” She continued, “This second life is similar to the first, and yet deeply rooted in a place deep in my soul where these memories are vivid and strong and inspire me daily. Not everyone has cancer, but everyone does have a need for encouragement and hope. I hope to offer it.”

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