

# 6 STRONG

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

## Stories of Strength

### JON HERSHBERGER

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Jon has spent the past thirty years serving our community by refereeing, coaching, and sharing his passion for athletics.

ahead for me and my loved ones. This was going to be the biggest challenge of my life. I started questioning why. My faith was weak. It was during this season, that I learned that waiting for God is never a waste of time.

I had an oral surgeon remove a small piece of tissue from a lump that was located on the roof of my mouth. Two weeks after I had the lump removed, I received news that it was a form of cancer. Days after the procedure, I was still having a lot of pain and discomfort. When I went back to the the doctor, I learned I had a rare type of cancer called Adnoid cystic carcinoma. This is a head and neck cancer that affects the nerves along the head and face. There are only three places that can handle this diagnosis. My family & I chose to go to Ann Arbor, Michigan to meet with their group of doctors.

On September 21, 2010, I went through 19 1/2 hrs of surgery. They removed my hard palate from the roof of my mouth. Half of my upper teeth and the right side of my cheek bone were removed. I was in the hospital for two weeks where I went through some tough times of rehabilitation. My family and friends helped me get through these difficult days. I'm not sure I would have made it this far without their love and support. When I arrived home I still had to receive thirty-three radiation treatments. I didn't want to stay in Michigan for these treatments so we decided to drive back and forth. This is when the community of Bremen reached out to show

**"Blessed are all who wait for him!"**

-Isaiah 30:18

I feel I'm one of the most blessed people alive. I am blessed because of my wonderful family that have supported me my entire life. They have been by my side since day one. I am also thankful for my wonderful, supportive friends and this GREAT community that we live in.

On July 14, 2000 my family's life was turned upside down. My wife Allison and I have been married 23 years, and my daughter Rylee is 15 yrs old. I had to share with them and rest of my family the news that I had cancer. I drove home alone after I got the news. My mind was going every direction. I wasn't sure what was going to be the next step. I wasn't sure how I was going to handle the situation that was

us how much they care. Every day I had willing people who took time out of their busy lives to help me get to my appointments. During this time I traveled over 12,000 miles. Each appointment consisted of six hours of travel time and thirty minutes of treatment. I was also on chemo for six months, but I had to stop because I started to have signs of kidney problems.

The kindness didn't stop there. With the help of Steve Pittman and the community, money was raised to help my family with the ongoing bills. THANKS AGAIN to EVERYONE who showed their kindness, love, and faith.



**He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.**

-Isaiah 40: 25-31



Today I continue to have this horrible disease that affects many others just like me. It has become part of my life. I continue to go to Michigan hospital every six months to be checked. We each face hard battles every day. When I get down or I start to feel sorry for myself, I think about some lyrics from a song.

#### **The Climb**

There's always going be another mountain  
I'm always gonna wanna make it move  
Always gonna be a uphill battle  
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose  
Ain't about how fast I get there,  
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side  
It's the climb

I have learned over these years to try to become a better person. There are struggles that we must face. We will get knocked down a few times. We must remember that God will be next to us to help us with our problems. He will continue to guide with His helping hands in the direction we need to go.

**So please everyone Keep on P. U. S. H.ing**

**PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS...**

**Jon Hershberger**

**THIRD ANNUAL**  
**6 STRONG**

**1 MILE FAMILY WALK / FUN RUN & 5K**

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**SATURDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2017**



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