

# **6** STRONG

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

## *Stories of Strength*

January 2016

# ELBIA HUNDT

My name is Elbia Hundt and my story starts when the storms of trials and suffering rolled into my life. I was diagnosed with GIST cancer at the age of 24 on November 2004. For 10 long years I had been in a battle against the ugly monster that threatened to steal my life from my loved ones. As I was going through something bigger than I could handle, I immediately turned to God. My relationship with my heavenly Father strengthened more as I became a cancer patient with chemo, nausea, side effects, pain, and hair loss. The more time I spent seeking God through his Word, prayer, church and retreats the more God would give me strength to get through the pain, worry, and anxiety. I handed Him my life and let him take total control of me and He blessed me with peace and comfort when fear and uncertainty would show up. I lived a day at a time and did not worry about tomorrow. Today was all I had and that was a gift to me.



Elbia finishing the b STRONG 5k on July 25, 2015

My goals, my dreams and my desires disappeared when I had to face the reality that I would die soon. My family and time with them became the most important aspect of my life. Nothing else matters when you know your time is up. I went from living a life with no meaning or purpose to drastically pursuing Jesus in everything. I was blessed by Him when I was able to open my eyes and see how meaningless this world is and how my real home is in Heaven. I was able to live my life knowing that I was dying and I learned to live each day thankful for life and not to take anything for granted. My faith became stronger and my need for Jesus became more desperate as the years passed. The Bible became real to me and the verses like; Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10) and “come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28) brought comfort to me. I prayed and asked God to take this illness from me. My whole being became hungry for more of Jesus. So I would seek him and knock at his door until he gave me strength, comfort, and peace beyond anything else.

In September of 2014, I was referred to IU Medical Center for transplant options and was given the thumbs up to go through a multi-visceral transplant. The plans were to remove my liver, stomach, and intestines and replace them with healthy organs. For the first time in a long time the doctors had given me Hope that I would survive cancer. This was bigger than anything I had ever imagined but again I knew that this was the final test for me. My life had always been in God’s hands and ultimately I wanted His will to be done in my life. After much prayer from friends and family I received the much anticipated call that they had organs for me. It was a journey of a lifetime and I knew that if I survived, I would be blessed with more time with my family. If I died, I would win big because it meant no more suffering or pain for me. Either way I was faced with a win-win situation. I ended up only having a liver transplant because the doctors were able to pull the cancer out of my other organs. I had many complications during transplant, spent many days in a hospital, and months living in Indy away from my daughter, family and

friends. A lot of things happened that I can't even begin to describe in this short story, but God was in the midst of it all. I had the amazing support of my husband, my sweet friend Val Yoder who left everything behind to stay with me and uplift me in prayer. I had my daughter Natalie who had lived most of her life knowing that her mother could die anytime. I had prayer warriors uplifting me and my family in prayer. My family, my church and my fellow coworkers at First Federal showed me lots of love and support during the hard times of the transplant procedure.

In July when I ran the 5k in the b STRONG race I was filled with so much emotion. I had survived what was impossible to overcome with my human strength. Thanks to God's amazing Grace and Mercy towards me I became a true living miracle full of life and health. As I ran I wanted everyone to see with their own eyes the Power of the Christ we serve. I was STRONG because of God, I NEVER GAVE UP because of God, and I am CANCER FREE because of God. As I finished the b STRONG race that day, wearing the b STRONG Never Give Up t-shirt, a picture was taken of me as I was giving Randy Neeley a thumbs up, I had no words for him and could not imagine the deep sorrow he was facing. I had been so happy to be cancer free and there he was standing alone without his beautiful wife Karen who had lost her battle to cancer. That could have been me and my husband and yet I was healed here on earth and Karen was healed in Heaven. Karen and I have both won, but her husband and her family had suffered the major loss. Until we meet again I know Karen will be waiting for us with open arms and her beautiful sweet smile.



Elbia after receiving the news that she was cancer free!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL**

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

**SATURDAY, JULY 30TH 2016**

Place: Bremen High School, Bremen, IN  
For more info about this event visit our website:

**[www.bstrong316.org](http://www.bstrong316.org)**