

On June 24, 2012, Adam and Lizzie Countryman welcomed their fourth baby girl, Emerick, into the world. Emerick displayed labored breathing and was admitted to the NICU with a perforated lung due to an oxygen treatment. The doctors informed Adam and Lizzie to prepare for the worst, but as they had done so many times before in past struggles, Adam and Lizzie prayed. They prayed for the health, healing and strength of their baby girl, and after ten days by her side in the NICU they welcomed her home. Little did they know that in six short months, their lives would forever be changed and it would be Lizzie needing prayer for health, healing and strength.

On January 7, 2013, Lizzie was diagnosed with a Periosteal Osteosarcoma cluster, and her oncologist informed her that the portion of affected femur would require replacement with a donor bone to remove the cancer from her body. A month passed between the time Lizzie was diagnosed, and the call she received to let her know a donor match had been found. On February 5, 2013, Lizzie underwent surgery to remove the three calcified tumors, which presented the most complex surgical challenge her oncologist had ever encountered. Carefully, under the hands of Lizzie's surgeon and God's watchful eye, a portion of her femur was removed and the donor bone was transplanted in its place. After three weeks of waiting for pathology results, the cancer board determined that the margins were clear, and Lizzie's bone cancer was successfully removed. Lizzie spent the six months that followed in a wheelchair, eventually progressing to the use of a walker while she awaited fusion of the donor bone.

People often ask why Lizzie isn't losing her hair and being subjected to chemotherapy and radiation; that is attributed to the fact that the tumors identified as Periosteal Osteosarcoma do not respond to those types of treatment. Lizzie will undergo CT scans every three months for the next five years, as her type of bone cancer has the potential for secondary growth in the lungs. After five years she will undergo scans every six months for an additional five years, and then once every year thereafter.

On July 18th, Lizzie was informed that her body had rejected the donor bone, and she would soon be facing another surgery. Though her second surgery scheduled for August 6th, she continues to draw upon her faith to get through the next chapter in her inspiring story. After surgery, she will return to a wheelchair to endure several months of limited mobility as her body once again attempts to effectively utilize the donor bone in place of her own.

The bilateral scars that adorn Lizzie's leg often inspire question and concern, though to her, they are a badge of courage, strength, and grace. This experience has exposed the core of Lizzie's faith and character, and she finds comfort in knowing that God has a plan for her despite the hardships she has and will encounter along the way. Lizzie's warrior spirit continues to be an inspiration and blessing to everyone she comes in contact with. Cancer didn't bring Lizzie to her knees; it brought her to her feet.