

It is my honor today to introduce you to this year's sparkle woman of the year. In March of 2016, this woman's journey began with a diagnosis of Stage 2 breast cancer. Her first response was "God's not surprised . . . He knows. He's been faithful to me in the past. If this is the path God has for me, it will all be worth it. I know My faith will be strengthened and others might come to know they can trust in Him too."

A month after her diagnosis, she began two months of bi-weekly chemo sessions followed by 12 weekly chemo sessions. She underwent a double mastectomy followed by 30 radiation treatments and reconstructive surgery. Through it all, her eyes were on Jesus & her countenance was absolutely incredible. She wrote in her blog "He has sustained me and strengthened me with His Presence every day . . . how He has grown my faith over these months! I can't imagine what it might have been like to face this without Him."

As she walked through months of nausea, insomnia, mouth sores, hair loss, skin burns, loss of finger nails, extreme fatigue and discomfort... we never heard her complain. Through this entire season she continued to serve our campus and volunteered her time each week to type up the weekend's prayer requests, reach out to new visitors, order office supplies, wash table clothes & dirty kitchen rags, and keep the office organized. She also teaches a NEXT class, leads a team at the Welcome Center, attends a lifegroup with her husband, leads a Sisterhood table and became a Deacon.

This incredible woman blogged on her successful business site through her entire journey and her testimony has reached thousands. In the last 18 months she has been transitioning both her mother & mother-in-law into care facilities. Her servants heart has flourished in spite of each circumstance as she continued to love & serve her family, community, and our church.

She has often shared that the Sparkle conferences have played a great role in her journey. In 2015, she geared up to be BRAVE and sing her fight song before she knew the battle that was around the corner for her. In 2016, in the middle of her storm, Jesus was the Anchor for her soul. She remained Anchored in Him and her anchor holds.

Her bold faith, joyful attitude, and peaceful spirit are felt by everyone around her. She has been a shining example to everyone in her path. She has walked through the fire and was not burnt. She did not fight breast cancer, she soared over it. She did not simply survive, she Flourished.

This year's Sparkle Woman of the Year is my friend Georgia Giguere.