

Lucky #18

In March 2003, I was diagnosed with a rare – REALLY – rare cancer. At my initial diagnosis appointment, my oncologist told me that I was the 18th (yes, #18) adult on record to have this type of cancer when, where, and how I had it.

I'll admit, for most folks, the classification as #18 may have been daunting. But for me, it actually brought a strange – and unexpected – reassurance.

You see, 18 is my lucky number – always has been and always will be. I played sports growing up and always had #18 on my jersey no matter the team or the sport. Let me be perfectly clear, I am not one to believe in "lucky superstitions." Instead, I believe in something much greater – bigger than any lucky number – a loving and merciful God who pays attention to even the tiniest of details.

My "lucky number" is 18 – and in that moment of overwhelming confusion in the doctor's office in the spring of 2003, God gently reminded me that He was there – and in complete control.

I heard His "still, small voice" saying, "It's ok. I'm here. I'm here in a small, special way that only you and I even know about. Have no fear."

In my usual, UNusual way, I quickly piped up and told my doctor and my family at that moment that I was going to be fine – and I meant it. And more importantly, I have been – and continue to be – thanks TOTALLY to the unending love of God.

After several years and much research and study, I'm not sure that my original classification as the 18th adult to have this cancer really holds true, but I have lived every day since then as Lucky #18...as I will continue to do. I am enjoying living each day as #18, whether the diagnosis holds true or not. It's something special and unique for me, that serves as a constant reminder of God's faithfulness and presence in my life. What a true joy to be walking this amazing journey!

For more information...I'm happy to share specific medical diagnosis information upon request. I have a tremendous team of physicians and healthcare providers across this great country and I am happy to share from their expertise through e-mail requests.



 **one amazing journey**

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