GOOD HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PERSENTS

prostate cancer

AWARENESS MONTH

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My Prostate Cancer Journey: Faith, Early Detection, and Hope

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” — Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, an d I want to share a personal testimony about my journey with prostate cancer. My hope is that my story will encourage all men, especially Black men, to take their health seriously, get regular checkups, and understand the importance of early detection.

My journey began while I was seeing a urologist for symptoms of an enlarged prostate (BPH). As part of my care, my PSA was regularly checked. Over time, I watched it go from 2 to 3, then 4, then 5, before coming back down to 4.

My urologist ordered additional testing, including a Prostate Health Index (PHI) blood test and an MRI. At the time, he felt the likelihood of cancer was very low and recommended that we continue monitoring the results.

Even so, I felt that I wanted a second opinion.

I went to Houston Methodist Urology, where my new urologist recommended a prostate biopsy. The 12-point biopsy showed a small amount of cancer in one sample, with two additional samples considered suspicious.

I will never forget the phone call.

It was a Saturday afternoon in June 2024. When I saw my urologist calling, I expected him to tell me that they had found no cancer. Instead, he told me that the biopsy had detected prostate cancer.

Naturally, I was concerned. Hearing the word *cancer* gets your attention. However, my doctor was confident that we had caught it at an early stage. Although I had concerns about what was ahead, my faith remained strong. I believed that God would get me through it.

Because my cancer had been detected early, I chose active surveillance. For approximately one year, I kept my doctor's appointments and continued to be monitored. I also did a lot of research on prostate cancer and the different treatment options. I talked with men who had traveled this road before me, and I met with a radiation oncologist to discuss brachytherapy.

My PSA and MRI were not showing significant changes, so I could have continued active surveillance. But I eventually decided that I did not want to continue having biopsies or living with the worry of knowing that cancer was still there. After researching my options, talking with doctors and other men, and most importantly praying about my decision, I chose to have a radical prostatectomy. In September 2025, I had surgery to remove my prostate.

Throughout this journey, **my faith was as strong as ever.** Proverbs 3:5–6 reminded me to trust God even when I did not know exactly what was ahead. I prayed and placed everything in God's hands, asking Him for total and complete healing.

God also blessed me with an incredible support system. My wonderful wife prayed for me, encouraged me, and attended every appointment with me. My son and daughter-in-law were there for me, along with a village of family members, church members, and friends who prayed, supported, and encouraged me throughout the journey.

Today, I am grateful to say that **I am doing well and there is no evidence of cancer.**

Looking back, one of the greatest lessons I learned is the importance of being involved in your own healthcare. I am thankful that I was getting regular checkups, that my PSA was being monitored, and that I made the decision to seek a second opinion.

A Message to My Brothers

I especially want to encourage my Black brothers: **Get your health checkups. Talk to your doctor about your prostate health and whether screening is appropriate for you.** Don't wait until something hurts. Don't let fear or embarrassment keep you from going to the doctor. Ask questions, know your numbers, and don't be afraid to seek a second opinion.

Early detection is important. It may help save your life and allow you to spend more years with the people you love.

I have always been proactive about my health, but this Prostate Cancer journey also strengthened something I already knew—**God is faithful.**

There were times when I did not know what the next step would be, but I trusted Him to direct my path. From diagnosis, through active surveillance, surgery, and recovery, God was with me every step of the way.

Cancer became part of my story, **but it did not have the final word.**

Today, I thank God for my doctors, my wife and family, my church family and friends, and for bringing me through this journey.

If sharing my testimony encourages just one man to schedule a checkup or have a conversation with his doctor about prostate cancer, then sharing my story has been worth it.

Monthly Salute to Good Hope's Super Seniors

As a multi-generational church, we are especially honored to salute our Super Seniors – those treasured members whose lives represent decades of faith, wisdom, service, perseverance, and testimony. This month, Good Hope proudly shines the spotlight on Brother Willie Wright, a 90-year-old Super Senior and proud representative of our beloved nonagenarian members who are blessed to be between 90 and 99 years of age. Brother Wright's life is a testimony to God's faithfulness. He and his f amily united with Good Hope in 1994, the same year Dr. D.Z. Cofield became our Senior Pastor! For many years, Brother Wright served Good Hope as the teacher of the Adult Sunday School Class. He also shared his wisdom and biblical knowledge by teaching monthly classes for the Senior Adult Ministry. Through his teaching, he did more than impart information; he encouraged and discipled others in their walk with Christ and helped nurture the faith of generations of Good Hope members. On June 10, 2026, Brother Wright and his beloved wife, Lena, celebrated 65 years of marriage. Sixty-five years of marriage represents a remarkable journey of love, commitment, sacrifice, companionship, and God's sustaining grace.

Today, Brother Wright describes this chapter of his life as the "winter season" of life. Yet even in this season, he continues to find purpose in serving those closest to him. Brother and Sister Wright are blessed to live in the same assisted living facility as his brother, allowing Brother Wright to provide emotional support and encouragement to both his wife and brother. Brother Wright continues to disciple others as he presses forward – one day at a time. He is thankful for the love and support of his two beautiful daughters and four grandsons, as he continues to be the strong patriarch of his family.

Brother Wright understands that his physical circumstances may have changed, but God's purpose for his life has not. He knows God has left him here for a reason, and he remains committed to fulfilling that purpose.

Although he misses being physically present at Good Hope, Brother Wright regularly streams the worship service, allowing him to worship alongside his Good Hope family.

Brother Wright points us to the prophet Jeremiah's reminder in Lamentations 3:22-23 that God's mercies are new every morning. He also holds close to the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." For Brother Wright, these are not simply familiar scriptures; they are a way of life.

Brother Wright says that God has been directing him for 90 years, and that declaration captures the essence of his testimony. Through seasons of joy and challenge, service and transition, Brother Wright has trusted that God has continued to order his steps. At Good Hope, we celebrate not only Brother Wright's longevity, but also his legacy. Brother Wright is still pressing on one day at a time, and we thank God that his journey remains a vital part of the Good Hope story.

Love in Action: The Heart of Discipleship

What does it really mean to show love to others? In a world where people often feel unseen, unheard, and disconnected, our love can become one of the clearest ways we reflect the heart of God.

Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). Love is not just a noun; it's a verb. It's not just a feeling; it's what God commands us to do. Checking on a friend, encouraging someone who is discouraged, forgiving when we have been hurt, or simply making time for someone can communicate the love of Christ in powerful ways.

This is where discipleship and love intersect. Discipleship is not simply learning more about Jesus; it is becoming more like Jesus and helping others do the same. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, His character should become increasingly visible in the way we treat people. We disciple others when we encourage them in their faith, walk alongside them through difficult seasons, pray with them, serve them, and point them back to God's Word.

The Rooted and Grounded journey reminds us that spiritual growth happens in community. We are called to encourage one another, remain connected, and spur one another toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24–25). Discipleship gives us opportunities to both receive love and extend it.

When we intentionally ask God to use us, we begin to recognize opportunities we might otherwise miss. A conversation, a prayer, an act of service, or a word of encouragement may be the very moment someone needs to experience God's love.

Who is God placing in your life right now, and how can you intentionally love, encourage, or disciple them this week?

SUPPORT OURMISSION TRIP

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 29:19 (ESV)

Good Hope is taking HOPE to the world! This October, Pastor Cofield and a mission team will travel to the West African Theological Seminary (WATS) in Lagos, Nigeria to equip leaders in disciple making and bless the campus, hospital, and surrounding community with hands on support and much needed supplies.

You can help us make a meaningful impact. Visit the WATS Amazon Wish List today and donate items that will directly serve their hospital, homes, and schools.

Thank you for your commitment as we continue BEING CHURCH, one disciple at a time. Click here to make your donation: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/7HNHF99ZF5UK?ref_=wl_share

UPWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

UPWARD Christian Flag Football & Cheerleading for children ages 4 yrs - 5th grade. Beginners are welcome!
After September 12, registration is $55 for the first child and $50 for each additional child.
If financial assistance is needed, see the discounted payment section below.
*The registration fee must be paid to have your child(ren) added to the league and placed on a team or cheer squad.
Early Registrations End: September 12, 2026
Late Registration End: September 30, 2026
1st Game: September 12, 2026
Season Ends: October 31, 2026
Location:
Center for Hope (3015 N. MacGregor Houston, TX 77004).
For questions, please email Jeremy Williams at jwilliams@goodhope.org and indicate 'UPWARD' in the subject line.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Join us for games, rides, food, candy and FUN! Everyone is welcome. Click here to get your FREE ticket: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hallowed-be-thy-name-tickets-1998132278433

Prayer Caravan

The 7th Annual Prayer Caravan will be on September 26, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We invite our community to unite in faith, prayer, and fellowship as we travel through Third Ward to uplift our community.
Then, on Sunday, September 27 from 2:00–5:00 PM, return to Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church for Ready, Set, Go!, a free voter engagement event bringing faith leaders and community members together for learning, connection, and civic action around the 2026 midterms and beyond.

AWANA

For nearly 25 years, AWANA has reached boys and girls with the gospel of Christ. As we kick off the 2026-2027, we invite children and youth (K3 - 12th Grade) to join us. The cost for the program is $50, and financial assistance is available. Children and Youth will engage in meaningful lessons, strong fellowship, and a chance for students to grow in their faith. We look forward to seeing you there!