

Exactly one-year to the day, on April 20, 2018, biopsies revealed the spots on her lungs were indeed cancerous.

"At this point I panicked. I needed to go somewhere that the doctors were the best of the best and that was MD Anderson."

Doctors' unleashed heart-breaking news.

After returning from Houston that day, Rhonda learned she had five lesions on her brain.

"I lost it."

Verifying with clinical staff at MD Anderson that her cancer was incurable, she told them of the headaches. On top of chemotherapy side effects, financial and emotional stress, and allergies, Rhonda suddenly began to have intense headaches.

Having the options to participate in clinical trials, Rhonda at first was hesitant until learning the lab testing could increase her life span.

"If I refused treatment they gave me six months, with the trials I would have up to a year. At first I didn't want to be poked and used as a Guinea pig but this is another thing I can show my family, that I gave it my all. I tried. I fought."

Rhonda is currently waiting to see if a two-week whole brain radiation treatment decreased her now eight lesions. She is slated to find out the results on October 31, and if the radiation has reduced her lesions she can begin chemotherapy for the spots on her lungs.

"Man this community," she said through tears. How do you thank people who paid five-hundred dollars for your chemo treatment? How do you thank someone for driving you to your appointment? How do you thank someone for organizing a fundraiser?"

After gathering her thoughts, she looked over, smiled, and calmly said, "this journey has made me strong in my faith, and not only me, but my family. God knows what he is doing. Whatever His will is, I accept it, I just need to get my family prepared."

Earlier this summer Rhonda made the decision to dedicate her life to Christ and was baptized by Brother Brian Blackburn at the First Baptist Church.

She offers advice for women, and men, regarding the pain associated with mammograms.

"If they don't squish it, they can't get a good picture. Do a 3-D mammogram, it costs \$75 extra but it's worth it. I would take the pain any day if I knew it was going to save my life."

The dauntless woman decided to make her story public because so many people endure this alone. Some because they have no family support, some due to pride, and many choose to remain private.

In sharing her story on social media Rhonda has endured more emotional pain than the physical pain from chemotherapy.

"You know what hurts the most? How many want to say I faked my cancer, or talk about my kids, or say I am taking money."

"That hurts."

"Why would anyone make this up?"

But I remember



what Brother Blackburn told me, think of duck feathers, and brush it off."

"Because with just as much good, there is evil, it made us better people. I want to tell everyone, if you have time to do something, do it. Don't put it off because you think you have time. Take the trip."

As Rhonda's family and church family have stepped up to the plate to stand beside her in this fight, she herself is comfortable in

her fate.

"I have not questioned 'why me' since watching *The Shack*," she said.

For Rhonda, the fight continues. It's a battle she faces each and every day; but if ever there was a warrior with the strength, confidence and passion to take on this monumental challenge, it's the woman willing to give it her all.

