You May Never Know

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Life can sometimes be a struggle and pain. You never know what challenges you are going to face. We sometimes take things in life for granted, and we feel the consequences that may result from doing so. God puts us through obstacles to find our strengths and allows us to change our perspectives on different things.

I was always pretty healthy as a young child. Well, I will not say that I was an energetic athlete, but I was in good shape. Doctors were people whom I did not care to see too often. I would barely go to the doctor for visits due to the fact that I was almost never sick. My mother knew when I was really sick because I would complain more than ever.

My little brother was sick more than I was. When he was ten years old, he was diagnosed with myocardiopathy, which is a heart disease. As time progressed, we were told that my brother had to get a new heart. It was the worst news that I had ever heard. He went through two hospitals until he was transferred to Arkansas Children’s Hospital. There he was put on the heart donor list, and in less than twenty-four hours, he received a donor match. Of course I am thankful for what God did for my brother, but I am also thankful for what the medical community did for him. They never gave up on him, even in the time when we thought we were going to lose him. Because of my wonderful Savior, the surgeons did a great job of saving my brother. After his surgery, the medical staff at every hospital that my brother went to for check-ups really did a great job involving themselves in our lives. His new heart allowed him to stay with us for six more years, up until the 29th of July, 2013.

About three years ago, I began to feel really sick at a Louisiana Gear Up summer camp. I was not sure what was wrong, but I had never felt like that before. The feeling was nothing too
intense. After camp, I thought nothing of what had happened and tried to tough it out. Sadly, that was not a good plan. I ended up going to the doctor to do some tests. For a few months, the doctors did not know exactly what I had. They thought it was Lupus. I was devastated and scared. After doing further tests, they diagnosed me with Scleroderma (Rheumatoid Arthritis), which is less life threatening than Lupus. A little relief began to enter my body. I never would have thought that I, out of all people, would have gotten this type of illness.

Before all these events occurred in my life, I used to think that things dealing with the medical field were disgusting. I wanted to be a businesswoman. I did not like doctors and nurses too much. I thought it would be impossible to become one as well. I said I would never work in the medical field. After being so involved with my health issues and my brother’s health issues, I became very interested in the health field. I actually loved learning about it. I felt like I should give back to those who helped my brother in some kind of way. In high school, I shadowed doctors and nurses and also volunteered at a hospital for a summer. The experience was surreal. I knew I was going to do something in the medical field. The choice I made was great! I am motivated to reach the top and help as many people as I can, no matter what my situation is! My entire perspective about the medical field changed after going through the test that God put me through.