

<p><span style="font-size: 10pt;">Today is #BrainTumorThursday on Twitter - checkout what this means <a target="\_blank" href="what-is-braintumorthursday.html">HERE</a>.</span></p>

<p><span style="font-size: 10pt;">It's also the very first day of our weekly Survivors and Thrivers articles.</span></p>

### <strong>What is Survivors and Thrivers?</strong></span></h3>

<p><span style="font-size: 10pt;">Through our ongoing commitment to raising awareness via Twitter each Thursday with the hastag #braintumorthursday, we have had the honour of meeting a lady called, Megan. Megan's Mum has a brain tumour and so Megan knows just how important raising awareness is, but, she also knows how sharing survivor stories can inspire others walking the brain tumour road.</span></p>

<p><span style="font-size: 10pt;">We have decided to partner with Megan and her blog <a target="\_blank" href="http://memomuse.wordpress.com/">http://memomuse.wordpress.com/</a> and each Thursday we will be sharing a story from a brain tumour survivor.</span></p>

### <strong>Survivor and Thriver Week 1:</strong></span></h3>

<p><strong><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">Today, it is our pleasure to introduce you to Tom McLain ♦ husband, father, friend, family man, and overall awesome person ♦ who also happens to be fighting (and doing a great job might I add) brain tumors. These are his words, in his voice.</span></strong></p>

~ <strong>Tom McLain</strong></span></p>

#

height="250" width="300" /></a></span></p> <h1><span style="font-size: 18pt;"><strong><em><span style="font-family: verdana,geneva;">I dream</span></em></strong></span></h1> <p><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"> <span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">With the diagnosis of a fatal disease and no clear answer as to how long I will survive, I dream about the events in life that I may miss. I have three daughters, so I dream about walking them all down the aisle to be married. I dream about grandchildren, being convinced that I will be an awesome grandfather. I dream about being financially secure enough to retire while I still have enough health to fully enjoy life with my wife and family.</span></span></p> <p></p> <p><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><a href="http://memomuse.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/tom-2-with-water.jpg"></a></span></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><em>"Never underestimate the power of God to use your flimsy self to his glory."</em> - J.E.Oppenheim</p> <p></p> <h1><strong><em><span style="font-size: 18pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">I am (be)</span></em></strong></h1> <p><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">While it may seem entirely strange to most, I am in many ways thankful for my brain tumor. Before the tumor came along, I thought James 1:2-4 was a completely insane passage in the Bible:</span></p> <p><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><a href="http://memomuse.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/tom-in-israel.jpg"></a></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><em>"The most difficult time in any cancer battle is the time between diagnosis and deciding on a plan of attack."</em> - Tom McLain</p> <div style="width: 236px; text-align: left;" id="attachment\_2948"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><br /></span></div> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"> <span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">How on earth could you<span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"> <span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">ever look up<span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"> <span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">on life<span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">ful experience? But then I began to realize that I would have a phenomenal opportunity to watch God work, both in my life, and in the lives of others around me. As explained by American author and brain tumor patient, J.E. Oppenheim, <span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">Never underestimate the power of God to use your flimsy self to his glory.<span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"> So far, the tangible benefits of my cancer have been that I have been taught faith, hope, courage, resilience, and purpose.</span></span></span></span></span></span></span></p> <p></p>

<span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><a href="http://memomuse.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/tom-on-camel.jpg"></a></span></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><em>"So far, the tangible benefits of my cancer have been that I have been taught faith, hope, courage, resilience, and purpose."</em> - Tom McLain</p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><br /></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">It would be unfair of me to suggest that I have fully adjusted to my ♦new normal.♦ The swirling effects of the tumor ♦ chemo, maintenance drugs, being a male over 50, and possible radiation damage ♦ do provide for some unevenness in my daily approach to life. In fact, you could easily encounter me on a given day and conclude ♦ ♦This cannot be the same guy.♦</span></p> <h1 style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 18pt;"><em><strong><span style="font-family: verdana,geneva;">Diagnosis and treatment</span></strong></em></span></h1> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">As for the tumor itself, a mass was detected in an MRI at the end of May 2009. During the first week or so of June 2009, I had a brain biopsy and it was determined that my tumor was an anaplastic oligodendroglioma. Not only was that good news because they are slow-growing tumors, but I also had what is known as a 1P, 19Q chromosome in the tumor cells which made them more susceptible to a particular chemo drug called Temodar. On June 22, I turned 50, so you could say the tumor was my birthday present! After getting a couple of consultations, it became clear that surgery was not an option, so we began Temodar in July 2009. Eighteen rounds later, I finished Temodar in February 2011. Not too long after that, I started targeted brain radiation and completed that in July 2011. The net result is: that as of today, my tumor is smaller and stable!</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><a href="http://memomuse.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/tom-with-water-in-background.jpg"></a></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><em>"The net result is: that as of today, my tumor is smaller and stable!" - Tom McLain</em></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">In terms of a favorite quote, there are many that come to mind. There is actually a website that has been kind enough to add a few of my quotes to those of others in the brain tumor community and other cancer sufferers. I go there frequently for inspiration.</span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;"><a href="https://sites.google.com/site/tummorwarrior/home/quotes-about-cancer" target="\_blank">https://sites.google.com/site/tummorwarrior/home/quotes-about-cancer</a></span></p> <p style="text-align: left;"><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: verdana,geneva;">If you are a brain tumor patient or survivor and would like to share your story, please <a href="what-is-braintumorthursday/survivors-and-thrivers.html">CLICK HERE</a> to complete

our questionnaire.

If you wish to get in touch with Tom, [CLICK HERE](mailto:%20info@btbuddies.org.uk "Message for Tom McLain") and we will pass your message on asap.

Thank you for tuning in today and supporting #braintumorthursday. We look forward to seeing you here at [www.btbuddies.org.uk/surviving](http://www.btbuddies.org.uk/surviving) and [www.memomuse.wordpress.com](http://www.memomuse.wordpress.com) every Thursday for *#Brain Tumor Thursday* and on Twitter every Thursday. Thank you for your time.

***Hope. Wish. Dream.***

Be.