

Zachary is 27 years old and is currently at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta awaiting a heart. Zachary is strong in his faith, is a son, brother, uncle, and is greatly loved by his family and friends.

On September 18, 2013, Zachary was diagnosed with Advanced Congestive Heart Failure, Cardiomyopathy, and Severe Atrial Fibrillation. He was 24 years old and a full time graduate student at Georgia College and State University. This diagnosis has forever changed his life. He had to withdraw from school due to physically not being able to attend, give up a job at the college he loved, change his diet, just to name a few. Upon being seen by a cardiologist it was discovered that his heart function was only at 10 percent. For months he had to wear a life vest, which is an external defibrillator that would shock him back into a normal sinus rhythm. He was referred to Piedmont in Atlanta for a consultation. The medical team at Piedmont told Zachary that due to the severity of CHF he would need to prepare to have a heart transplant of an LVAD in the near future. In February of 2014, Zachary opted to have an AICD (Internal defibrillator) to see if that would help his heart function and put off the need for a transplant or LVAD for awhile. Despite having the AICD, Zach continued to have atrial fibrillation. This resulted in several hospital stays, multiple cardio versions and ablations. The cardio versions have been unsuccessful at keeping him in a normal sinus rhythm. The reality is that Zachary has a disease that will not get any better. It actually gets progressively worse over time. At some point, Zachary's health has deteriorated to the point that he is facing a heart transplant.

Throughout this journey Zachary has remained positive and held onto his faith. He has a stronger faith and is closer to God than he ever was before. Zachary and his family know that if it were not for God answering prayers, he would not be where he is today.

Zachary has been working at May and Smith Funeral Directors for close to 2 years and has been attending school for his Mortuary Science Degree. He was one class short of completing his degree when the doctors decided that it was time for him to go on the transplant list. Zachary will be an in-patient at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta until he receives a transplant. Despite having health insurance, Zachary's medical bills are astronomical and will continue to grow during his hospital stay, transplant surgery, and a lifetime of ongoing medical care.

An account has been set up at George D. Warthen Bank in Sandersville to help with Zachary's medical expenses. If you like to contribute, please make checks payable to: Zach's Medical Fund. Mailing address is: George D. Warthen Bank PO Box 637 Sandersville, Ga. 31082