## My Lyme Disease Story (Liz Moore - April & July 2008)

In the summer of 1992 I was suffering with facial paralysis, knee pain and unrelenting fatigue. The only doctor that was able to correctly diagnose my problem was an AIDS specialist in Pennsylvania. That was how mysterious this disease was. He determined it was Lyme disease by testing for what it wasn't, like rheumatoid arthritis and Lupus. At the time the Western Blot was very unreliable and Doctor's had no idea how to interpret the test results. He tested me for Syphilis because the syphilis test picks up all spirochete bacteria.

He put me on 2400 Mg of Suprax a day for three months. By December I was symptom free so he removed me from the medication and told me I was cured.

I went on to have 2 more children, and unknowingly passed it to them. Yes, the bacteria cross the placenta. There are many doctors that will tell you that it is impossible for it to be congenital, but looking back on the health of my second and third girls it is clear to me they were born with Lyme Disease.

Over the next 12 years I suffered with Epstein Barr Virus, Chronic fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, environmental and food allergies, and I tested positive 4 times for Lupus only to have it rescinded by a specialist every time. I just never felt right. There were times over the years that I would feel pretty good, then for whatever reason I would completely crash and be sick for months going to specialist after specialist for answers.

During this time I had 2 more girls. My 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter had a twin that I lost early in the pregnancy. I went on to deliver Sarah early and she ended up on a heart and respiration monitor for 9 months. No specialist could tell me why she would just stop breathing even during the day!! She had developmental delays. For example, she was unable to crawl until Emily (my oldest daughter) and I taught her how to crawl by spending day after day on the floor with her. She had many difficult years while being homeschooled both in learning how to read and doing simple math problems. By the time she was 10 years old Sarah had already repeated 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and was struggling in 4th grade. She was unable to follow instructions, conversations, or do simple long division. In 2004 I had her tested for Lyme disease; she was diagnosed with Central Nervous System Lyme Disease. The specialist said that she "had never seen so much Lyme disease in the brain of a child."

My third daughter, Laney, was born robust and screaming. The screaming never stopped. We thought it was food allergies. I removed everything possible from my diet so I could continue to breast feed and took her to the top specialists at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) only to receive medical shoulder shrugging. By the time she was 9 months old she was 11 pounds, bleeding internally and she was diagnosed as 'failure to thrive.' Somehow by the Grace of God and caring friends we were able to get through that time of her life and she survived, because no one in the medical community could figure out what was wrong with her.

She went on to suffer with ruptured bilateral ovarian cysts (3 times), hydronephrosis of her kidneys, chronic bleeding esophagitis, constant and chronic stomach pain, GERD, and headaches so severe they did an MRI to look for a tumor. By 2004 when she was 7 years old she was exhibiting symptoms of OCD, ADHD and severe psychotic episodes where she thought Satan was living inside of her and she would hear voices in her head. When because of the voices, she tried to throw herself out of my car while I was driving, I immediately took her to the Lyme Doctor that I had been seeing for a month. She was diagnosed with Babesia microti (protozoan parasite) and Lyme disease. The specialist had (again) never seen such a high concentration of Lyme disease in her abdominal cavity, and stated that she was the sickest child she had ever seen and was amazed that she had even lived this long.

By the fall of 2004 my three girls and I were under the care of Dr. Emilia Eiras a Lyme Doctor in Central New Jersey, and Diane King, a specialist in computerized bio feedback. Dr. Eiras' care and treatment plan saved our lives. For an entire year we were on various combinations of antibiotics, sometimes two at a time, along with malaria medication to kill the Babesia. We also took a combination of nutritional and herbal therapies. Dr. Eiras also told me I was to eat no sugar, wheat, dairy and all of my food should be organic. I followed every guideline she placed before me to the letter.

The girls did extremely well, and came out of the treatment with no evidence of the disease. To this day they are thriving, they are active again, and are able to keep up with their schoolwork.

My Lyme Story was not to be as victorious. Since 2004, I have relapsed twice and was diagnosed with a severe systemic Candida infection that had invaded my lungs. My specialist told me I was lucky it hadn't gone to my brain. I was hospitalized and almost died of blood poisoning. During this time my lymphocyte markers continued to decline, as well as my white blood cell count indicating that my immune system was being handcuffed by the Lyme disease.

By the summer of 2007 I was again in bed and completely exhausted. My doctor confirmed I had relapsed again, and we both agreed that another round of antibiotics would further compromise my immune system. She gave me the options of an alternative therapy that was developed by a German doctor, or to 'do nothing' and see if my body could rally and fight it off. My husband and I prayed about it and decided to see what my body could do. Through the fall I limped along having some good days but they

were clearly outnumbered by the bad ones.

I had been consistently taking handfuls of supplements by a company called Dynamite Marketing. I started to do research on supplements and came across information that caused me to take a hard look at the current company I was buying from. I learned that this company was a marketing company that had their vitamins manufactured FOR them. The inaredients contained some synthetic isolates, and they had no clinical data on their products. I started to wonder if in fact these vitamins were causing me more harm than good? So I stopped taking them and felt no worse. Someone suggested Standard Process supplements that were whole food and cold processed. I took them for 8 weeks and felt no better. At this point I had absolutely no energy to even consider researching another supplement company.

As the months rolled along and I was limping along in my health, I started to wonder if in fact I was going to die of Lyme disease.

At the end of January 2008, I was at Patrick Henry College with my oldest daughter at an activity. As I was standing in the lunch line I overheard a woman talking about nutrition and supplements, and particularly about improving the immune system. My ears perked up and I asked if I could listen in. Her name was Susan Adams and she was a distributor of GNLD. I asked her if in fact GNLD manufactured their own products (yes), were they whole food? (yes), did they contain any synthetic isolates? (no), were there any clinical data to support their claims? (yes)!!

I asked for information and my husband and I researched the company. He took a hard look at the science (he is an agronomist) and I looked at the ingredients. We both came to the conclusion that I should try the supplements. I started them on February 8, 2008. One month later we went to vacation at our house in Vermont to ski. I had not really skied this winter because after two runs I was utterly exhausted and had to go back to the house and rest. However, after being on the supplements for a month, I was skiing five hours a day in 14 inches of new snow through the trees and over bumps with my family!! We were amazed at the difference. The kids kept asking me "Mom do you want to rest?"

I have been taking the supplements for three months. What I am noticing is that I am now sleeping at night as my insomnia is a thing of the past. My morning basal temperature is near normal for the first time in 5 years, I can exercise for almost 40 minutes a day, I have an appetite, food tastes good again, and I don't need 2 hour naps every single day.

I realize that I have a ways to go to get to optimal health, but I am enjoying the small improvements I see on a daily basis.

In HIM,

Liz Moore Sewell, NJ

## Update from Liz on July 22, 2008

To my Dear Friends and Family,

I know that many of you have been praying for me through this last serious relapse of my Lyme Infection. Although it has been a very difficult time for Andy and the children, God has been faithful, merciful and gracious in hearing our prayers and sustaining us through this trial.

The Lord intervened 6 months ago and introduced me to two wonderful people, Lee & Susan Adams. They are distributors of nutritional products from a company called GNLD. Andy and I researched the company and its products and decided to try them. I started on some of the products on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

At the time my Lymphocytes and white blood cell count were way below the normal range and of great concern to both my Doctor and me. Having an immune system that was not functioning left me vulnerable to serious disease and infection. As of December 21<sup>st</sup> my Lymphocyte count was 24, dangerously below the normal range of 60-360 and my white blood cell count was 3.1 (normal range is 3.4-9.6).

I had a count done on May 8<sup>th</sup> after being on the GNLD products for four months. My Lymphocyte count went up to 48, a 100% increase, and my WBC count went up to 6.1 another 100% increase. Now in July, I just received my most recent counts and my Lymphocytes went up again to 96 another 100% increase and my WBC is stable and in the normal range.

We are rejoicing in the news, and I want to thank all of you for your prayer and concern over these many months.

In HIS service,

Liz Moore