

Charlotte's story (interviewed by Karen Carr)

Karen: So Charlotte – I understand you went to the doctor's the year before last for a routine test and when you got the results they weren't quite what you expected. Can you tell us what happened?

Charlotte: Yes, in 2007 I went to my GP for a routine test and when the results came back they showed I had abnormal cells in my cervix. What usually happens at this stage is that you're asked to come back for another test in 6 months, as changes in the cells can occur within a woman's natural cycle. I didn't think too much of it and waited 6 months to be tested again, but when the results came back it was the same problem and there were still abnormal cells in my cervix. My GP arranged for me to go to the hospital and see a specialist. After I was examined by the specialist I had a biopsy and when the results came back from this it showed the cells on my cervix were pre-cancerous and were level 3, which is the most severe before becoming cancerous. I was told the cells would not change back and I would need to have treatment.

Karen: Then you got some exciting news and discovered you were pregnant with Bethan – so what happened next?

Charlotte: I was very excited to find out I was pregnant and very relieved the biopsy had not affected the pregnancy – I had not realised I was pregnant when I had it but it can cause miscarriage so it was a miracle that didn't happen. As well as being excited about the pregnancy I was also concerned that I had 9 months ahead of me of not knowing how long it would take for these pre-cancerous cells to become cancerous. All I could do was take every opportunity possible to get prayer. At the time I couldn't test out whether or not I'd been healed but I pressed in and asked people to pray for me.

Karen: So 9 months later you had Bethan and went back to your GP's...what did they say?

Charlotte: I was hoping they'd test again to see if I needed any treatment or if I'd been healed, but they went ahead with the treatment, which involved minor surgery to cut away the affected area of my cervix. They sent this away to see whether the cells had changed or progressed. I waited nervously over Christmas to get the letter that would tell me the results. When it came, I was trembling as I opened it but was completely amazed to find God had totally healed me – it said there was no sign of any pre-malignant cells, not even mild abnormalities.

Karen: And that was something the doctors had said would not simply disappear on its own, you would have to have treatment?

Charlotte: Yes!