

Less Than a Year to Live: What Would You Do?

Description

It's a question no one wants to face, let alone answer, but the harsh reality is that many of us do every day. Oren Miller, the founder of a lively Facebook group for dad bloggers, is now faced with answering such a question.



Almost a month ago, Oren went to the hospital when he had severe back pain from what he thought was a muscle spasm. It turned out to be much worse; stage 4 lung cancer that has now spread to his lymph nodes, kidneys, liver, and brain. He wrote about his diagnosis on his blog, [A Blogger and a Father](#), in a post he titled "Cancer". After reading his touching story, I could hardly swallow from the giant lump in my throat.

I never met Oren, but since becoming part of the Dad Bloggers Facebook group that he founded, I am forever grateful for everything he's done. There are over 800 members of the group today, and I share thoughts, stories, and rants on a daily basis with all of them. These guys have helped me as a father, husband, and with my small blog by sharing lessons they've learned along the way, and I am a better person and blogger/writer as a result.

I haven't met any of them in person, but I consider these dads my friends as all have something in common and always help each other out. I've even connected with a few local dads who I will be meeting soon. All of this, because of one man who is also a loving husband and father to two children.

As I stood looking down at Avery playing with a "new" activity board I just made for her, Oren's situation was weighing on my mind. *What if I were told I had less than a year on this planet?*



That giant lump returned as I looked at my precious little girl smiling at the board I made her as I thought the unthinkable. I donâ€™t cry very often, but I felt that the slightest thing couldâ€™ve opened my floodgates right then.

Never, ever, would I want anyone to face a situation like this. Being a relative â€œnewbâ€• to the Facebook group, I was moved at how fast all of the dad bloggers were to respond upon hearing Orenâ€™s news. Automatically, my respect for this guy grew like Jackâ€™s beanstalk.

Within days, a fundraising page was created with the goal to raise enough money to send Oren and his family on lovely vacation. The original goal of \$5,000 was quickly met and is now nearing \$30,000! This truly will be the vacation of a lifetime.

The donations have been overwhelming, and Iâ€™m happy to have contributed what little I could, but now Iâ€™m asking YOU for help. With cancer treatments and medical expenses quickly adding up, it is evident that additional funds will be needed to help cover these as well. Not to mention help Beth, Orenâ€™s wife, provide for their children.

Seeing how many people have already flooded Oren and his family with support and donations, itâ€™s easy for us to fall into the â€œBystander Effectâ€œ. This occurs when others do not offer help to someone in need if there are others (bystanders) already around.

We see others around and think â€œWhat else can I do besides offer kind words?â€• Well, each and every one of us can help by making a donation we are comfortable with, be it 5 or 5,000 dollars, and know that together we make something huge!

Please help by going to [Orenâ€™s Fundraising Page](#) and giving whatever you can.

I am a firm believer in the power of mind, and would like to think I could remain optimistic like Oren should the news ever befall me. If you believe you will fail at something, you inevitably will fail, but if you tell yourself you WILL succeed, then you can overcome any obstacle.

The more donations and words of encouragement given on his page, the more power we give to Oren and his family to remain optimistic and fight this obstical!



Oren with is wife and two children.

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