

Nicodemus Middleton  
Patient Testimonial  
Storm Eye Institute

At age 72, Nicodemus Middleton has had his fair share of unfortunate events. While working as a carpenter building houses in 1977, an errant nail from a nail gun pierced his right eye. The injury required two surgeries to repair and left him with limited vision in that eye.

Then in the summer of 2004, he was struck by lightning. Amazingly, he seemed unharmed. But a few days later, his eye began to hurt. And his vision was cloudy. Visits to several ophthalmologists revealed that in addition to his injury-related vision loss Mr. Middleton also now had glaucoma. Medications were prescribed to slow the progression of the disease, and Mr. Middleton was told he shouldn't drive.

Living with clouded vision, bumping into objects in his house and being unable to see clearly enough to read wasn't the kind of retirement Mr. Middleton had in mind. Mr. Middleton was finally referred to the Albert Florens Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina to not only halt the glaucoma-related vision loss but to improve what little sight he still had.

"From the moment I walked into the Storm Eye Institute, everyone treated me like a king," he said. "And Dr. Lee was so reassuring that he could help me."

Dr. Lee told his patient that although glaucoma is not yet curable, it is treatable. He prescribed new medications for Mr. Middleton and scheduled monthly appointments to track the progress of the disease. Remarkably, after a few short months under Dr. Lee's care, the cloud is starting to lift for Mr. Middleton. "I'm better able to move around my home and it's possible that I could even drive again," he said. "I'm beginning to enjoy retirement and am not having to depend on others to help me as much as I was – all thanks to Storm Eye Institute."