

A Time When God Showed Up

I would like to share a memory that has created a special blessing in our lives that only God could have orchestrated. So many times I have looked back on my life, the lives of my grandparents, parents, myself and my children's lives and I can say without doubt or hesitation, only God could have done that. These are times when God's word comes alive in our day to day experiences, and the praises and prayers of a childlike faith that were heard by God almighty are given back to us in such a personal way that lives are changed, hope is renewed and faith has won a victory.

I have told the story many times of how God reached down on Feb. 29, 2004 and saved our son Nathan during brain surgery. This day being the most difficult and the most spectacular in my walk with The Lord and continues today to remind us of who God is and how God loves and cares for us. Does God show up, yes, and God shows up in an intimate way and intricately weaves the moments in our lives reflecting on the grace we receive as we experience true worship with Him. What is most amazing is how God chooses to give something special to each one of us and then blesses all of our lives together as a family to guide us into a closer faith.

After Nathan's miraculous healing, he went back to A&M as a student, and we all went back to the daily living of our lives. But something had happened to each one of us that needed to be expressed in worship and thanksgiving, praising the God who we knew and had touched our lives. I did what I have done since childhood. I would spend time each day singing and worshipping The Lord, in the car, at home, in choir practice or during the service, many days, and many tears. Nathan would work at his desk studying hard and suddenly feel an overwhelming emotion of how God is present in his very life each day. He would stop to listen to praise music and weep. Elizabeth, a tower of strength would share with friends how important it is to love your brother and would express herself in her dance and with singing. Andy shared moments with people he worked with, many who had never shared faith in the workplace before. God healing Nathan opened up many doors.

Christmas Eve, 2004 was the first Christmas since Nathan's injury. He had celebrated his 20th birthday on Dec. 23, and we were just so thankful to have a chance to have another birthday and Christmas together. That Christmas Eve afternoon Nathan suddenly said, I want to give Elizabeth a present early. He went to retrieve a package which she opened. A Christian CD. He wanted her to hear a song that was so meaningful to him. The CD started to play and Nathan began to sing leading us to worship. We all knew what was on his mind, the surgery, the healing, and the continued grace of God when scar tissue caused problems and now the celebration of birthday, Christmas, it was all so amazing. Then he told us a story. All year he found songs that would touch his heart and express his faith. His favorite and the one he would sing the most was, I Know My Redeemer Lives. He started to sing that song from memory without any music and we all came close together in the living room and started to sing that song. Tears flowed freely, the emotions of the past year, the working through all the

events, the fears, the what-ifs, the blessings, the release, the surrender, it all came out. Together in worship we were healing. Suddenly outside someone noticed an unfamiliar sight in Katy, Texas. It was snowing! Big flakes were coming down, on Christmas Eve, a miracle! We ran outside laughing and marveling at the special gift God had given us.

Fast forward to Easter 2008. Elizabeth our 18 year old daughter was asked to do a worship dance for 5 services on Easter, to a song the choir would sing, I Know My Redeemer Lives. That's the song, how incredible, Elizabeth was asked to dance to Nathan's favorite song. Every time I have heard that song since, I think of Christmas Eve 2004, when Nathan would lead our family in worship and then the miracle of snow! I remembered the tears of a strong 20 year old, a young man that would become vulnerable and reveal his love of The Lord at the mention of that time in his life when worship healed all of us. What a gift to now be able to worship The Lord in dance especially to a song with such meaning that would tie the lives of Nathan and Elizabeth to God in such a sweet way, that she was created and gifted to do. She did the choreography and danced and as I watched her I saw her heart one with her Savior and the one who saved Nathan. No one else but our family knew. It was a special secret treasure. As if that wasn't one of the greatest blessings I could ever have, our Pastor, Pastor Alex happened to be watching me, watch Elizabeth with great joy. He spoke and told of a bible verse that he thought of when he saw me watching Elizabeth. Now I know the Bible says that God's word does not return void and this is an amazing example. The verse he quoted was from Zephaniah 3:17. He told of God's love for us that surpassed the great love I had shown on my face while watching Elizabeth. Zephaniah 3:17 has been my favorite bible verse for 16 years. I learned that verse in a bible study when we lived in Scotland and from that day on for many years I have said that verse over my children as they went to sleep. I would sit on their bed, rub their forehead and tell them these words, The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save, He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. Another secret treasure that only God knows and our family knows. God hears our every prayer, he sees all of our tears, He knows our hearts and our hearts desires. God can reach down and bless you in only the secret places that you open up to Him. God has created us for worship and praise. I felt as if the bond between that verse and God's love for us and the expression of the dance and the peace that transformed all of us on that day in that song was God's love stamp. Whatever we give, whatever we fear and then surrender to God, His presence is what is left inside us. Gods shows up. When I surrendered my children to Him as they slept, during Nathan's surgery, the Christmas Eve healing, during the dance and in the bible verse, God is there, never leaving or forsaking us in the miracle or when the miracle is one that you can't see. I will forever look for those secret treasures that can be shared because of Christ's sacrifice.