

HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

# **HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS**

Stories of God's marvelous deeds  
in the lives of ordinary people

Compiled by Joan Royer

*Psalm 96:1-3*

*Sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Sing to the Lord, praise his name;  
Proclaim his salvation day after day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

# INTRODUCTION

*Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.*  
Psalm 96:3

One day in my Quiet Time the Lord drew my attention to the scripture above. He told me He wanted me to write a book which would tell of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in my life and in others' lives. That is why this book was written. This book is meant to be an encouragement for you. Hopefully it will strengthen you as you read how the Lord has revealed Himself and His ways in these stories.

~ 1 ~

## TROUBLE ON THE HIGHWAY

“God, help me!” I shouted as my car slid out of control on the slippery Indiana highway on that cold rainy day in February. I instinctively shut my eyes as my car careened down into the ditch on the right side of the road and into a field. I “felt” the car moving for awhile as I sat braced for an impact or whatever might happen. I was totally out of control of the steering of the car. The car gradually slowed down enough for me to open my eyes and discover I was almost back on the highway! I was approaching the same roadside ditch I had just driven through, but this time from the field side of it! I accelerated the car trying to return to the road, but got stuck in the ditch.

As I sat in my car along the highway trying to grasp what had just happened, I began to see an amazing picture of what God had just done for me.....

The day began with plans to fly our private plane from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Columbia, Missouri, for a job interview for my husband. I was busily packing the clothes for our two daughters so we could make a stopover at my sister’s home in Marion, Indiana, and leave the girls there while we visited Columbia. I anxiously watched the cold rain and low clouds, wondering if they would hinder our flight and make us late for our appointment that evening.

Just then my husband called saying the weather was too bad to fly privately and we would need to catch a commercial flight very soon. Would I make the trip by car to Marion? Would I drop off the girls at my sister’s home, and return to Indianapolis in time to catch the commercial flight? There was just barely enough time if all went perfectly!

Driving at a high speed, I quickly made the trip, but I learned that the cold rain in Indianapolis changed to freezing rain and snow as I went north toward Marion. Cautiously I arrived at my sister’s home, left the girls, and began the return trip - knowing I would not make the commercial flight on time unless I drove fast.

As I drove too fast for the icy road, God and His angels were watching over me, even in my unwise choice of speed. All of a sudden I realized the car was sliding, and it was totally out of my control! As I shut my eyes with the approaching danger and yelled, “God, help me!” God took over. When I looked around as the car came to a stop in the ditch, I knew He had taken over, because I could see where His angels had steered the car - off the road, through a ditch, into a large open field, around a tree in a U-shaped turn, then back up to the edge of the road where the car stalled in the ditch. The car and I were totally uninjured, not even scratched!

I walked to the nearest farmhouse where I used their telephone to call an AAA service truck to pull my car from the ditch. Needless to say, we missed our commercial flight and had to postpone our visit to Columbia until the next day.

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I knew, as I pondered the event, that an angel had guided my car that day because my eyes had been shut, and a car does not steer itself where my car went!

Some weeks later, as I drove along that same Indiana highway, I noticed something which again caused me amazement about God's guiding hand. I noticed that "my field" with the tree in the middle was the only open area for a long ways that was without buildings, fences, or signs which my car could have hit!

What could have been a tragedy turned out to be an enduring memory of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*To the Lord I cry aloud  
and he answers me from his holy hill.  
Psalm 3:4*

~ 2 ~

## A TREMENDOUS SUBSTITUTE

As I arrived home from church that Sunday evening the Lord spoke to me to turn on the TV. As I did, I heard a pastor in the middle of his sermon say something which I immediately knew I was to write down. The idea he gave was this: *Just before God is ready to give you His very best, Satan often offers a tremendous substitute.*

The idea of a tremendous substitute was a new one for me, but since that time I have often found those words to be true.

It applied to my life one summer when I knew I needed to find a part-time job by September of that year because part of my financial provision would stop at the end of that month. As I took this need to the Lord in prayer, He gave me a picture of a door set before me. That door was open and behind it was bright light, so bright that I could not see what was there...but I knew it was His provision. He told me to keep walking toward the "door" in September, and He would have something for me at that time.

So I walked, in faith, and kept the picture before me. I had to fight battles with anxiety as the time drew closer and I still did not have the financial provision I needed.

By August I expected the Lord to bring me a job at any moment. Just at that time a friend called and invited me to lunch. She told me of a ministry position open at her church and asked if I would let her submit my name. She knew I had a call to ministry, and this looked good in so many ways!

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Could this be what the Lord had planned for me? I knew I must pray about it and give it serious consideration.

As I pondered it there was one thing which bothered me about the job. If I took this job I would have to leave my church “family” of many years duration where I had friendships which were close and meaningful to me. Only with the Lord’s help could I do that. So I sought Him in prayer.

I have learned over the years that if I really want to hear the Lord’s will I must first give up my own. This was very hard to do! I wanted the job the Lord had for me, and I needed the money soon, but I did not find peace about leaving my home church. So I prayed until I could say, “God, whatever You want for my life, that is what I want too. I am willing to pursue this job if that is what You want.”

Then He revealed to me that this job was a “*tremendous substitute*” which He had warned me about. It had seemed so perfect in many ways. That is often the way a “*tremendous substitute*” seems - perfect in many ways. It is hard to tell it from the real thing except as you seek God and listen to Him.

I chose not to pursue that job, but to wait longer. One day, in mid-September, two weeks before part of my financial provision ended, I walked into a Christian bookstore to buy a card. As I chatted with the owner, he casually mentioned, “By the way, you don’t happen to be looking for a job, do you? I have one available.”

With those words the Lord began the process of bringing me the “*real thing*.” For years a desire in my heart had been to work at a Christian bookstore because of my love of reading and sharing Christian books. Now, in the Lord’s perfect timing, He fulfilled that desire. In the process He showed me another of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*!

The picture of the door with the light on the other side finally became a reality! I walked through it with joy and thanksgiving!

*I am the Lord;  
in its time I will do this swiftly.  
Isaiah 60:22*

~ 3 ~

## THE LESSON

Do you want to know what the Lord is like? I do! And as I go through life, I have found that He gives me “lessons” through which He teaches me about Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

One day He taught me a lesson which I have remembered ever since. It all started with the rain which came...and came...and came.

Into the lower level of my house came that flood of water. I could not keep up with it as I mopped and mopped. No matter how long I soaked it up, it just kept coming! My back started hurting from the mopping. My discouragement increased.

The water invaded the carpet and I knew that carpet would have to be taken up, dried, and tacked down again. This was not the first time this had happened, so I knew the cost. That was one of my great concerns - the cost. My finances were extremely tight, and I did not want to pay for water damage again.

So, as I continued mopping, experiencing the back pain, and grumbling in my mind, I began weeping. It all seemed so hopeless! As I did this, I started to talk to the Lord about it.

Finally, after pouring out my troubles to Him, I became quiet long enough to hear Him speak. And what I heard was certainly not what I expected! I heard His still small voice say, *“Have you praised Me yet for this?”*

Praised Him? For this? I certainly had not! I had not even thought about praising Him for this awful situation! But now I knew He wanted me to do just that!

Slowly I began to speak the words He wanted me to say...”I praise You, Lord, for the flood. I praise You, Lord, for the aching back. I praise You, Lord, for the cost of fixing up my carpet.” I didn’t FEEL like praising Him, but He did not ask me to feel like it, only to praise Him.

As I did this, He revealed a thought to me which has remained throughout my life. The thought was that God’s purpose was not to save me from the distress and difficulty of the situation, but to teach me something He wanted me to learn in the middle of the situation. In fact He wanted to use that situation for my good! He wanted me to learn to praise Him when things were difficult as well as when they were easy.

At this particular time He did not choose to change the circumstances...He chose to change me! I remember this as one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*In every thing give thanks:  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

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## DADDY

We stood and thanked the judge, then made our way from the legal office to our car. God had just answered a desire of my heart, which had taken many years to unfold. It started many years ago before I had any children. I had just returned from Indiana University Medical Center where the doctor had recommended that it was time to consider adoption. We had been married for nine years and had spent the last three years going through every type of procedure and test recommended by the specialists to help us get pregnant. Nothing had helped. We did not understand at the time why this was happening to us, but I now realize God had a unique plan to bring to us our first child - a very special baby girl He picked just for us - by adoption.

It was an exciting time once the decision was made! For ten months we filled out paperwork, received visits from the social worker...and waited. The waiting experience is one I will never forget because every day took on an adventurous excitement! Would today be the day of *THE IMPORTANT TELEPHONE CALL*?

Every time the phone rang, the thought went through my mind, "Will this be the call saying they have a baby for us?" Every plan we made was contingent upon "when the baby comes."

Then one day it actually happened! The call came! They had a baby girl for us! The excitement I felt at the time cannot be put into words. Life would be different for us from this moment on - forever - because we had a baby....a little girl!

We experienced a whole year of the delight of seeing the world through the wondering eyes of a child. And now, today was the day to look back and reflect about what God had done in our lives by bringing Kim to us. This morning we made the trip to meet with the judge for the procedure to legally adopt Kim. We would have done this a year earlier if the law would have allowed. Now the day had finally arrived! After a year of having the silent concern that something might happen to take Kim from us, that concern was finally put to rest.

The judge finished all the questions and paperwork necessary, then relaxed as he addressed Kim for the first time. At one year old she did not understand the significance of what was happening, but she knew this was a stranger talking to her. "Well, Kim, is there something you want to say about this?" questioned the judge in a friendly manner.

"Daddy!" she said, as she snuggled up in her father's lap for security in this strange circumstance. And we all laughed! "I guess that expresses your answer pretty well!" laughed the judge. For, indeed, that day she legally had a "Daddy" in a way she did not comprehend until later in life. She had a family. And we had the child God meant for us. God had just performed another of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*!



## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

*Delight yourself in the Lord  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*  
Psalm 37:4

~ 5 ~

## IKNOWTHE PLANS

For several months the thought had been slipping quietly into my mind...the thought that someday I would move from the house I owned at that time. I would glance briefly at that thought and then let it slip by, feeling the move would come at least one or two years in the future. I had good reasons why I should wait that long to move...logical reasons. They made sense to my mind. But that was not the Lord's plan.

It was Friday, June 23, and I was having my Quiet Time. The Lord spoke to me saying He wanted me to place my house up for sale. In spite of all the previous thoughts about this, I was still surprised. I had not given much thought to actually doing it. I wanted to be sure this was really God's will before I acted on that word. That would be a big step for me to take by myself. I had never sold a house before! So I waited.

On Saturday, June 24, He said the same thing to me again in my Quiet Time. Since the word was reinforced, I began to look at it much more seriously.

On Sunday, June 25, as the Lord spoke the same message to me I was convinced I needed to act on it. So, on Monday morning, in my Quiet Time, I agreed to put my house up for sale. Then, with His guidance, I carefully outlined the steps I would take and the approximate times I wanted to take them.

At first I thought I would place the house on the market in September to give myself preparation time. But He said I should plan so the new family could move in before school started. So I made plans to close on the sale during the third week in August, around the 21st if possible. I planned to begin renting my new home on August 1st so I could have three weeks to move my things, have a garage sale in the old house, and have time to clean the house I was selling before completing the move.

I believed these plans were from God, and yet, what amazed me was this only allowed one month for God to sell my house! At that time many houses were sitting on the market in our city for 6-12 months without selling!

On Wednesday, June 28, my prayer partner and I prayed about this, and the advice that came was: "Call the Realtor right away and set this up." What Godly advice this turned out to be!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

The Realtor and I met on Friday, June 30, one week after the Lord spoke to me to sell my house. I shared with her about the Lord's instructions, so we were both excited to see what He was going to do!

It was scary to sign my name on that document to sell my house while not knowing what lay ahead. I was agreeing to a huge transition without knowing its far-reaching effects. But what enabled me to sign was the assurance this was from the Lord.

I wanted the multiple listing realtors to tour my home on Wednesday, July 5, during the following week. Therefore my realtor said she would have to put it on the computer on the following Monday, July 3rd. I agreed to that, thinking I would have the 4th of July holiday to thoroughly clean and prepare the house for showing before Wednesday, July 5. Little did I suspect what God was already doing even as I made these plans!

On Monday, July 3rd, my house listing was placed on the computer system. A realtor saw it on the computer and came over that very afternoon. That evening she brought her client to view the house, and they wrote a contract on it that same night. I had not even cleaned it yet! That extra special cleaning was not what the Lord needed to sell my house. He just needed my obedience to list the house at the exact time He told me to. He did the rest!

God knew something which I did not know when He said I should list my house for sale. He knew there was a buyer who wanted a house just like mine and wanted it in my neighborhood. He knew she would make an offer on a house just down the street from mine during that first weekend in July just before my listing was put on the computer. He also knew she would miss buying that house because someone else made an offer just prior to hers. She was eager and ready to move as soon as possible. God was already at work in the situation. He just wanted me to join Him in what He was doing!

And guess what! The closing date she wanted was August 21st! In fact, God worked out every detail of the schedule we set that Monday, June 26th, when I said "yes" to His request and we set the plans. He even helped me find a lovely home to rent beginning August 1st as we had planned.

Once again in my life God revealed Himself, His purposes, and His ways by displaying one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*"For I know the plans I have for you,"  
declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11*

~ 6 ~

## IN QUIETNESS AND CONFIDENCE

*In quietness and in confidence  
is your strength, My child.*

*Face each day and each moment  
with quietness and confidence,  
knowing I am with you always,  
and have an answer for  
every question, every decision.*

*I am your quietness.  
I am your confidence.  
I am your God.  
I am your Lord.*

*I am your all in all.*

*I am your provider.  
I am your source.  
I am your sufficiency.  
I am your power.  
I am your strength.*

*I am all you ever need.*

~ 7 ~

## GOD'S THERAPY

It was Friday...the day for chemotherapy again! How I dreaded those days! Twice a month for four months I had been taking treatments in that therapy room with other cancer patients. Some had much worse stories to tell than my story, so I learned to appreciate how well God was taking care of me even through the mastectomy and chemotherapy I had to endure. God was with me - and how much I needed Him! Especially today!

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It all started with a routine mammogram which I did not want to have, but thought I should. Then came the letter saying something looked suspicious in the X-ray. Next came surgical biopsy day with many of my dear, dear Christian friends waiting and praying with me for a report of “no cancer.” Finally came the telephone call telling me there was definitely cancer, and I broke down and cried and secluded myself for the rest of that day as the news took on reality for me.

But God was with me. He brought my daughters and Christian friends to comfort me in my grief. I praise God for them!

During the next two months I went through the mastectomy and surgical recovery period with a love blanket of support from my daughters, my church family, and my friends who gave me food, flowers, cards, love, and prayers, as well as much appreciated visits and telephone calls. I did not know how much those things meant until I needed them myself!

But now that time was past. And today I had to face another chemotherapy treatment. I would show up at the treatment room where the male nurse would insert a needle into my left arm to begin an IV setup. He would draw blood samples to test to see if my system was strong enough to take the treatment. Then I would wait for an hour or two until approval was given and drugs were sent to the therapy room for me. After that the drugs would be dripped into my veins for several hours - first the anti-nausea drugs, then the chemotherapy drugs selected by me and my doctor. Then I would wait...and pray.

Before I began chemotherapy I had asked the Lord how to pray about taking this therapy, and He instructed me to bind the bad effects of the drugs, and loose the good effects, so I did that day by day. I especially prayed not to lose my hair. I heard some stories from those who did lose theirs, and kept praying to be spared from that. God answered that prayer, and I was so thankful for that blessing!

But today this therapy day was different than the others. In my instructions I had been told to report any intestinal problems I developed. Well, they had been developing, but I had not yet told the doctor about them. Today I knew I must because I was getting sick for one to two hours at a time more and more frequently. I never knew when or where the sickness would hit me. As I reported this the words came that I did not want to hear: “We may have to postpone your therapy treatments.”

One of my greatest desires at that time was to finish those treatments as soon as possible! I certainly did not want to postpone them. So that evening I cried out to the Lord, “What do I do about this, Lord? How do I handle this? How do I pray? I do not want to postpone these treatments! I want to get them finished and get on with my life again! Please help me!”

And my wonderful God, in His still small voice, said, *“You can ask Me to heal you, and I will.”*

Well, I asked! And He did! After four months of times of sickness coming with increasing frequency, for the next two months of therapy I had no more sickness!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

As I write this story two years later, I still have no sign of cancer in my body! So I share this story with you to “*declare His glory*” and tell of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*!

*And my God will meet all your needs  
according to his glorious riches  
in Christ Jesus.  
Philippines 4:19*

~ 8 ~

## I LOVE YOU

It was the last day I could visit my father in the hospital. He had a stroke and we did not know how long he would live. We also did not know what his condition would be if he did live.

When I heard of his stroke I made the ten hour trip from Missouri to Indiana to see him. After spending several days there, it was now time to return to Missouri...return without knowing the outcome of this stroke.

I did not look forward to this last visit to the hospital, knowing it could be the last time I might see my father alive. What do you say at such a time?

My father and I had never been close. He was not the type of person to be affectionate or share his feelings with others. We did not communicate much except about surface things. I wanted to be close to my father, but somehow it was not easy to feel close to him. I had never heard him tell any person, “I love you.” And as a child it would have made such a difference in my life to have heard those words!

Now, as an adult, I could see that Dad had loved me “in his way” by taking care of my material needs along with those of our family. But, as a child, I did not perceive that. I needed, as a child, to be told and shown that I was loved. Therefore, I grew up thinking he really did not care much about me.

And now the time had arrived to say good-bye. I dreaded this moment. What should I say? I leaned over his bed to hug him and said, “Dad, I have to leave now. I have to go back to Missouri....I love you, Dad.”

And he said the words I had waited all my life to hear: “I love you, too.”

As my sister and I left his room and walked down the hospital corridor, she said with tears in her eyes, “That is the first time I ever heard Dad say ‘I love you’ to anyone in my whole life!”

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I knew it was one of life's rare and touching moments... and that God gave that moment as one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

Oh, that we could turn aside  
from all our pride and pain  
and take the risk to tell someone  
"I love you" - what great gain!

Take the time to tell someone  
of the caring in your heart,  
before the opportunity is past,  
before you have to part.

~ 9 ~

## CHARGE OVER THEE

My sister, Lois, and I were driving along a highway in Indiana heading toward Fort Wayne. She had just received word that a friend of hers needed her immediately so she dropped everything to go. As she left she asked if I wanted to ride along to keep her company. So, together we left the Christian Conference we were attending telling friends we would return the next day.

As we traveled along the two lane highway, we came upon a large semi-truck and began to pass it. When we were about half way around it the driver of the truck, apparently not seeing us in his side view mirror, began pulling into the passing lane where we were.

The next thing I knew we were careening off the left side of the highway with our car turning completely over and finally coming to a stop in a cornfield! It was the strangest sensation turning over in a car...one which I hope I will never feel again!

My eyes were shut as we went over, but I was quite aware of every sensation. I felt all the bumps and jolts, but at the same time became aware of a stinging pain in my finger! I pulled my hand back from the pain thinking I must be receiving a cut from broken glass in the windshield. My strangely calm thought was: "This must be what it is like to turn over in a car."

As we thudded to a stop, right side up (Praise the Lord!), I opened my eyes and began to look around. There was dust or smoke all around the car. At once I realized the car could catch on fire! I said we should get out immediately in case the car caught on fire. We assured each other we were OK as we hunted for her glasses which had been thrown off her face.

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Then we tried to open the doors. They would not open! At that moment I began to feel panic! I began to pound on the door frantically. But it would not open!

Just then Lois got the door on her side open, and we realized we could get out, so the panic stopped immediately.

As soon as we got out we walked away from the car through the field to the side of the highway where we sat down a moment to try to grasp what had just happened and what to do next. Then we heard people yelling at us to come across the road away from the wires hanging near us. We had not yet noticed them!

After we crossed the highway to those friendly voices calling to us, we sat down again in our shocked state and began to listen to them speak. They said, "We never expected anyone to come out of that car alive!" They told us that we had hit a pole and broken it in two so that the wires were hanging down around the car. My side door, which I had frantically tried to open, was lodged against the pole we hit. Thank the Lord I could not get it open, because I might have walked into live wires before realizing it.

After the ambulance got us to an emergency room they had Lois lie down because she had a headache. When the nurse asked me if I was hurt, all I had to report was a cut finger - the pain I felt while the car was turning over. A little later I overheard the nurse quietly tell someone that our blood pressures were "sky high!" She immediately had me also lie down when she discovered that.

Due to the high blood pressure they asked us to be admitted overnight for observation even though we were not hurt. As we lay in our hospital beds we called back to the Christian Conference we had just left, and the whole conference group stopped and prayed for us immediately.

We rested in our beds, bathed in prayer, thanking God for His protection. He had just performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in our lives as He kept us safe through the accident.

*For he shall give his angels  
charge over thee,  
to keep thee in all thy ways.  
Psalm 91:11 KJV*

~ 10 ~

## ONE SEED AT A TIME

One day my attention was drawn to some birds eating in the grass outside my kitchen window. I noticed the birds picked up one seed at a time to eat. The Lord gave me a mental picture of a whole

pile of seeds. Then He said He did not provide a pile of seeds for them, but just one seed at a time - and He would provide for me the same way!

~ 1 1 ~

## THE REFLECTION

The quieter the water  
the more perfect  
the reflection.

The more you know  
who you are in Me,  
the quieter your soul  
is before Me,  
the more perfectly  
you reflect Me!

*And we, who with unveiled faces  
all reflect the Lord's glory,  
are being transformed into his likeness  
with ever-increasing glory.  
2 Corinthians 3:18*

~ 1 2 ~

## GOD'S MIRACLE BABY

It was Tuesday afternoon and I was walking up to my sister's house. I had been invited to come and share something with the prayer group gathered there. This was a moment we had all been waiting for - a long, LONG time, and it was finally here. This began several years before when the doctors had done all they knew at the time to help my husband and me to get pregnant. After exhausting their efforts they told us to consider adoption, so we went through adoption procedures. Through this God brought us a baby girl who was a delight in our lives.



## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

Later, when we moved to another town, a different doctor told us of one more possibility we might try - major surgery. By this time we were so happy with our adopted child we would have been quite content to adopt a second time. But something inside kept saying to me that perhaps I should try this one last possibility. So, in the spring, I had surgery and went through weeks of pain and fatigue to recover.

By Thanksgiving we learned I was pregnant, so we spent the holiday telling our family and friends the good news and we all rejoiced together! But the day after Thanksgiving, my body began a process of miscarrying that baby. I spent most of the week in the hospital, then was sent home with the instruction to spend the rest of the nine months off my feet to try to save the baby. How do you manage a home and a 22 month old child while in bed?

In the midst of the situation I kept talking to God about it. "God, if You want me to have this baby, that is OK. You know I want to. But if, for some reason, it is not best for this baby to come into the world, I accept that. Please do what You know is best. I leave this in Your hands." And shortly after arriving home, the miscarriage was completed.

Well, that did not stop my sister's prayer group! When I got pregnant again within a few months of the miscarriage, they took this new baby as their prayer project! They prayed for that baby's life and health and for that baby to be able to be born. Since I had miscarried once, and possibly twice, the doctors did not have as much hope for this third time, but that did not deter those prayer warriors. They had faith!

The pregnancy went smoothly! And a beautiful little child was born. She even surprised us by coming three weeks early in time to be a Christmas present! Little Elizabeth was a miracle of God through prayer - reminding me of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, who had her own miracle birth experience.

So, today, all these thoughts flooded through my mind as I approached the house where these prayer warriors were gathered to see "their miracle baby." Baby Elizabeth and I entered, and we all praised God together! Today was a day to ponder His ways, to look back and see *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*, and to declare His glory.

*With God all things are possible.*

Matthew 19:26

~ 13 ~

## NAILED TO THE CROSS

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

One of the Lord's marvelous deeds is giving us the opportunity to become clean before Him through Jesus' work on the cross. There was a day in my life when He took me through a giant step in the process of becoming clean from past grudges, hurts, and unforgiven circumstances. It all began at the very last meeting of the conference...

The conference I was attending in North Carolina was on "Prayer for Spiritual Awakening." One thing I learned is that if you want spiritual awakening you need to pray, but I also learned that effective prayer must come from a cleansed vessel. God began a process of cleansing in me that day. He started to clean me from past experiences.

I sat listening intently as the speaker shared a fresh experience of God's work in his personal life - an experience only two weeks old. I thank God for this man who was willing to be vulnerable enough to share how God revealed his own needs for cleansing and how God taught him to be free from the bondage of past events in his life. He shared how he took each revealed memory of past hurts, grudges, and unforgiven events to the cross, confessed his part in those events, asked forgiveness, and then nailed those sins to the cross in his imagination as he accepted in his heart Christ's finished work of paying the penalty for them.

I knew deep down inside God was calling me to do the same. I felt like the conference was just beginning for me because there was so much inner work I wanted to do before returning home.

But the conference was over. Even so, my heart was filled with the intense desire to be alone with God and let Him do that cleansing work in me also. Oh, how I wanted to stay!

We packed the van with our luggage and began the 1 and 1/2 day trip back to Missouri. The drawing by God to come apart with Him and begin that cleansing work was so real I could not escape it, nor did I want to. However God knew what to do with all those travel hours!

As the miles flew by and people became quieter, I began looking out the window and drawing apart in my mind to communicate with the Lord. "Lord, please show me those areas in my life that need cleansing! Take me back, Lord, in my memory to times and events which I need to confess before You."

And He did! The first event He brought to my mind seemed so insignificant to me, I would not have considered it if He had not shown it to me from His viewpoint. He reminded me of a time when I was six years old and my mother was in bed recovering from the delivery at our home of my baby brother. My aunt was taking care of our family until my mother was able again. I had injured myself and wanted a bandage on the wound, but she would not give me one. I went to my mother and asked for one, and she let me have it.

The Lord began to show me I had never forgiven my aunt for not understanding the need of a small child, not just for a bandage, but for the love and concern that mother gave with that bandage. I had held a grudge against my aunt ever since that day and did not even know it!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

First the Lord had me confess my sin of holding a grudge, then forgive my aunt for not helping me. As the speaker taught us, I pictured myself taking my sin to the cross and nailing it there. Christ had already paid the price for it and I accepted that payment and thanked Him for it.

What a wonderful cleansing followed! All the way home, for hour after hour on the van, the Lord took me back in my memory and worked cleansing from past events. The prayer Jesus taught became very real to me: *“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors!”* As I forgave others, He worked cleansing in me of my debts. Those debts got nailed to Jesus’ cross all the way across the country from North Carolina to Missouri as God worked one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in my life!

*For if you forgive men when they sin against you,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
But if you do not forgive men their sins,  
your Father will not forgive your sins.*  
Matthew 6:14-15

~ 14 ~

## ONE STITCH AT A TIME

I am sitting in my chair looking at the picture which my mother stitched on canvas for me. It is a lovely picture of a clump of birch trees blowing in the wind. I liked that picture the moment I saw it in the store.

I bought the kit to make it myself, but did not get around to doing it. Then one day my mother saw the kit and volunteered to stitch it for me. At that time in her life she was retired and had time to sew. So, although I had the initial desire to create the picture on canvas, and bought all the materials to do so, it was not completed and framed until another person, my mother, volunteered to do the actual stitching. Out of that combination came this beautiful picture hanging on my wall.

As I sit here pondering this, the thoughts begin to form in my mind from the Lord about how our lives are similar in relation to Him. He is the One who had the original idea, the initial desire, for our lives. He provided life for us and all the materials needed to stitch a beautiful picture from it. One thing is left for us to do to get the picture completed.

We have to work with Him, using what He has given us, to create that beautiful picture. It must be stitched day by day, one stitch at a time. He will provide the directions for us - as were provided with the picture mother stitched. She just had to follow those to get the picture right. Our directions can be found in His Word, the Bible. If we follow those directions, when we come to the

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

end of the picture, He will put the frame on it, and we can all rejoice in *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*..

*I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you and watch over you.*  
Psalm 32:8

~ 15 ~

## LIKE A LITTLE CHILD

As an adult I have often been guided by the Lord to look back into my past and remember an event which needs to be worked through. Sometimes I need to forgive someone, sometimes I need to ask the Lord to forgive me, sometimes I need to be freed from a wrong attitude, and sometimes I need healing. This story involves both forgiveness and emotional healing for something which happened to me as a young child.

I do not remember why, but my father was angry with me. In the process of dealing with me in his anger, he sent me outside our home to stand by myself on our front porch in the dark. I was very afraid of the dark, so that was a dreadful punishment for me. But there was also a feeling of rejection and fear during that event...enough that it continued as a very painful memory for many years.

As an adult I brought that memory to the surface under the Lord's guidance one day. I had to forgive my father for treating me that way. It was easy enough to say "I forgive him" to the Lord because I now had children of my own and could understand how irritating they could be at times. Perhaps I had been that way. But somehow the Lord was not finished with that memory. I did not have a sense of peace about the memory, and it kept returning to my mind. So I asked the Lord how to be free from the pain of that memory. Then I began to see that the feeling of being unwanted and rejected was still there and needed to be healed. "How could I be healed?" I asked Him. Then He performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in my life to bring healing to me.

He had me bring back and review in my mind the picture of myself standing on that porch as a little child. Then He reminded me that He was always with me and that I could imagine Him there on that porch with me - because He really was. So, in my imagination, I pictured Him standing there with me. And, somehow, it was not dark anymore when He was there, and I was not afraid.

In my imagination He took my hand and we walked together down the steps off the porch and into a grassy area beside the house. His presence blessed me and freed me to be the child I was. We

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

took hands and danced around in circles as children do. Then He stooped down and waited and watched as I danced and ran around in the grass full of joy and delight in being with Him.

This was so healing to me that now it is a pleasure to go back to that memory. When I do, I remember, not pain, but Jesus being with me and accepting me for being a child and acting like a child...and just loving me as a child. My earthly father could not accept me acting like a child, but my Heavenly Father loved me that way!

*Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me,  
and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God  
like a little child will never enter it."  
And he took the children in his arms,  
put his hands on them and blessed them.*  
Mark 10:14-16

~ 16 ~

## BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT INTO ONE BODY

My husband and I had traveled from Missouri to California for the American Academy of Family Physicians Convention where he was to be initiated as a new member along with hundreds of others who had passed their board exams. The night for the initiation ceremony had arrived and we were preparing to attend.

I was ready to go when, at the last minute, I decided to change to a red dress. This red dress had pinned to its collar a dove pin, a tiny silver pin which to me stood for the Holy Spirit. It identified me as a Christian - like the first century Christians used the sign of the fish to identify themselves. But tonight, in my hurry to change, I did not notice that pin. I just followed a sudden urge to change to that red dress.

As my husband and I parted at the huge theater, we made plans to meet after the ceremony by the front entranceway. Then he went to the stage area while I sat in the theater to watch. We did not think when we made those plans about the thousands of people at the convention and how difficult it might be to find someone after such a meeting. But, God had a plan for the waiting time!

After the ceremony I went outside and stood near the entranceway on the sidewalk in front, waiting. I waited and waited, wondering why we had not been more specific in our meeting place. Standing there in my bright red dress, I was easy to see. But it was not the red dress that caught someone's attention, it was the tiny, tiny Holy Spirit pin!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

A woman came up to me, introduced herself, said she was from North Carolina, indicated she was a Christian too, and said, "I just wanted to meet my sister in Christ who was wearing that Holy Spirit pin!" With that we hugged, and she disappeared in the crowd.

My heart leaped and joy exploded within me! God lifted up my spirit like a cloud floating above the world! In that moment, I had experienced supernatural instant communion with someone I had never met before - another member of the "Body of Christ".

The joy of that moment returned in memory many times over the years to bring a smile to my thoughts. To me this remains as one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -  
whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -  
and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.  
1 Corinthians 12:13*

~ 17 ~

## HELP ALONG THE ROAD

It started out as just another routine day for Harold. He and a partner were to deliver cars from Columbia, Missouri, to Effingham, Illinois, and they were just getting underway. Little did Harold realize that today God was going to display one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in his life - one he would never forget! As Harold tells the story:

We started our trip from Columbia, but somehow got separated from each other along the way. It suddenly dawned on me that I knew the town to which we were going, but did not know the name of the car dealer. I did not know if my partner was ahead or behind me on the road. I was in a quandary as to what to do!

"Lord, I need Your help!" I prayed as I stopped along the side of I-70 east of Columbia. I spotted a telephone not too far away, but was afraid I might miss my partner if I left my car to use it. What should I do?

About that time a car pulled off the road in front of me and started backing up. As I approached the car a stranger said, "Could I be of any help?" As I explained my situation and reluctance to leave my car to telephone, he said, "That is no problem. I have got a phone in my car."

The stranger proceeded to call my sales manager in Columbia and learn the name of the dealer I was to contact in Effingham. I felt immensely comforted to learn that information.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

As we chatted a bit I said to him, "I do not know where you stand in your religious life, but I want to share something with you. I was standing out here along the road, and I was really in a quandary. Finally I thought about the Lord and I said, 'Lord, I need Your help!' And about that time you pulled off the side of the road. It really proved to me that the good Lord can take care of us!"

The stranger kind of grinned and said, "Well, I think you are right!" And he shared with me that he was a Baptist minister from near Atlanta, Georgia, and was traveling from Kansas City where he had just visited his mother. He even said he had been to Columbia before and had sung at my own church in Columbia some years ago! Then, wishing me well, he drove on.

Later I was surprised when stopping at a rest stop in Wentzville to find my minister friend there, so we got to talk some more. Even so I made it to Effingham to the right place only about fifteen minutes behind my partner.

Sometime later I received a letter from my newfound brother in Christ from along I-70 which said:

*Dear Harold,*

*It was good to meet you by the side of the road last week. I am sorry it was under such circumstances, and I hope everything worked out the rest of your trip.*

*Oftentimes in my travels I have needed help along the road, and the Lord sent me the person I needed at the time. I appreciate your testimony to me that you prayed and I showed up. It was no inconvenience to me, and it was a delight to meet you.*

*May the Lord richly bless you in all things, and if you are ever in Atlanta, give me a call.*

*Awaiting the shout!*

*Bill*

What started out for Harold as a perplexing situation leaving him troubled and uncertain as to what to do, turned out to be a testimony of God's care, and a display of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*The Lord will hear when I call to him.*

Psalm 4:3

~ 18 ~

## AGLOW WITH THE SPIRIT

The airline stewardess was staying at the Hotel Denver while she had layover time between flights. This was her usual place to stay, but little did she know how different this particular visit would be!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

While she was in her hotel room that evening she looked out the hotel window and saw the Denver Convention Center. This was not unusual, but what was shocking that particular night was what she saw coming from the top of that Convention Center. She saw flames covering it! As she watched in awe, she realized the building was not being consumed!

She said to herself, "I must find out what is going on over there!"

The next morning while riding down in the elevator she began conversing with a group of ladies from Indiana who were in the elevator with her. After finding out they were attending meetings at the Convention Center, she told them what she saw the night before. So they invited her to come to their meetings that day - meetings of the Women's Aglow organization holding their annual National Convention.

The stewardess did attend those meetings and left at the end of the day very impressed! She was a Christian, but had never heard of Aglow before. She said she must get involved in Aglow back home. It turned out the headquarters were right near her house.

God performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* for her at that time. We do not know why, but perhaps He was calling her into a deeper walk with Himself. What we do know is that while those Aglow women were praying and praising the Lord, God touched the life of this woman through a supernatural sign. In the process, He also gave a visible sign of encouragement to all of those women at the Aglow Convention!

*Jesus said...*  
*"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth,*  
*will draw all men to myself."*  
John 12:32

~ 19 ~

## THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS

For many months my husband had been seeking a different job. Each time he was informed of another job possibility we would discuss it, consider that area of the country, look at the job, and try to see if this was the right place for us to move. We wanted a good job for him, but we also wanted a good place to live and raise our children of two and five years old.

The answer seemed to be "no" to each one, until he was contacted by Duke University about a position there. This was different. It had many attractive features and the decision was not an automatic "no." But, even so, he was not quite sure.



## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

He asked his contact person at Duke to allow him until the end of that month of December to make his decision. All during that month the answer did not come with peace to him. He wanted an assurance inside that this was the right step to take before giving up his old job and moving our family.

At the end of December, with no answer clear, he asked for the month of January to finish making the decision, and was granted that request. In spite of all his efforts to come to an understanding of what to do, the answer did not come! It was so frustrating! On the one hand, it was a good job with people he liked. But, on the other hand, he did not feel a clear direction to take that job.

By the last day in January, he knew he had to make a decision one way or the other. So he told me he would go ahead and accept the job even without a "sureness" within himself. But God had a different plan! At 4:30 on the afternoon of January 31st he called the contact person at Duke University to say he would accept the job. But that person's secretary said he had just left to go to Europe just shortly before the phone call, and he would not be back for nine days. She really wanted to know my husband's answer, but he said he would wait to talk to the contact person.

During those nine days, he was contacted about a job in another state and went to look at it. And this job was just what he wanted! There was no hesitating or waiting. He knew this was the right place for him! So, in God's perfect timing, he accepted the right job and we moved our family to Columbia, Missouri, which proved to be an excellent place to live and raise our family.

God had picked the best place for us! But not only that, he had kept us from making the wrong decision until the right job came!

Not only did God have the right job for my husband, but our children were able to attend the Columbia Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and also graduate from the University of Missouri in Columbia. When Columbia was selected by *Money Magazine* as the second best city in which to live in the United States one year, it only affirmed the decision God helped us make in 1974 when we moved there. In my opinion God had truly performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* for us!

*In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps.*

Proverbs 16:9

~ 20 ~

## UNKNOWN DANGER

My ears were hurting from the air pressure change as our small plane circled and prepared to land at the airport at Vientiane, Laos. We were about to visit the third city on our two-week tour

through Southeast Asia. Having traveled from the huge city of Tokyo, Japan, where we lived at that time, to the bustling city of Hong Kong, then to Saigon, Vietnam, we were not quite prepared for the sparseness and bleakness of the countryside in the Vientiane area. As we landed and began exploring the city, our amazement increased as we saw practically no stores, only one stoplight in the whole city, and very little traffic on the streets. We had a lot to learn about Laos from the person we were visiting.

Our host shared with us about the country, and in the process mentioned a short trip which possibly could be arranged to visit the ancient capital of Laos called Luang Prabang. It could be reached at that time by joining a pilot who flew a small plane there on special occasions and stopped at a mountain village along the route to deliver rice. This sounded intriguing to us two young explorers wanting to experience all we could during this rare opportunity to visit Laos.

It was arranged. We were told to be at the airport the next day and be ready for a short flight into the mountain village, then another short flight north to the old capital. We also were told we would have about two hours to explore the capital, and then we would have to return to the airport. We were warned not to be late because the pilot would not wait for us. When he was ready to leave, he would leave, with or without us.

The next day when we boarded the plane we found ourselves the only two passengers on a small plane with jumpseats along the walls facing the middle. Along with the supplies, we took off for the village in the mountains. This was quite different from a commercial flight!

To get to the village we had to fly low between two mountains and wind our way down quickly into a small valley. As we landed on the edge of the village, we got out of the plane to stretch while the pilot took care of his business there. It was raining, so we stood under the high wing of the plane and began to look around. People began to gather near the plane just as interested in looking at us as we were at them. They stooped down and just stared while we waited. As I watched them I remembered the description I had read of Khmer people of the Laos mountain area, and these people looked just like the description.

The pilot returned and we took off again, this time to land in Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Laos, in the early afternoon. My husband and I quickly began to walk through as much of the city as we could cover in our two hour time limit. We believed that as we traveled we got a better feel for the place we visited if we spent time walking there. Actually I do not remember seeing any type of transportation we could have used anyway. We discovered that this city had a beauty which made one wish it could still be the capital city instead of the bleak Vientiane.

Believe me, we took no chances on missing our plane back! So we were at the airport at the designated time, not wanting to be left in northern Laos by ourselves. As we waited for the pilot to arrive we sat on boxes sitting in the airport area - boxes of explosives. We could hear shooting in the distance so we knew fighting was not too far away. It was spring of 1962, and there was warfare in northern Laos at that time. Uneasily we waited, and were relieved when the pilot returned and we took off for our return flight to Vientiane.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

That night, after we returned, our host discussed our trip with us. When we finished, he remarked, “I did not want to worry you before you left so I did not tell you this...but two weeks ago as that plane flew into the same small mountain village to deliver rice, it was shot at from the mountains on the sides!”

We were shocked! We had no idea it was that dangerous! But God did! How many times He protects us when we are unaware of it. I believe He was performing another of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in protecting us during that whole trip!

*If I go up to the heavens, you are there...  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.*  
Psalm 139:8-10

~ 21 ~

## COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE

From the time I was a child I knew there was a spiritual realm which we did not ordinarily see or experience in our daily lives. I knew this because of a story my mother used to tell me about her sister, Fern...

Fern was pregnant and the time of birthing was near. Even as she waited for this event, her mother, my grandmother, was very ill and near death. However the news of the graveness of her mother's illness was being kept from Fern because the family did not want her to deal with this until after the baby was born.

Then her mother died. The family did not tell Fern, but waited. The delivery time came and the new baby arrived into this world. Sometime after the delivery, the family gathered at Fern's bedside to tell her the news about her mother.

As they walked in they were surprised when Fern said she knew why they had come! She said, “You have come to tell me Mom's dead, haven't you?” As they questioned her about how she knew, she told them this incredible story:

She and the new baby were lying in their room when she saw her mother walk into the room. Her mother walked over to the baby's bed, looked at her, and said, “I just wanted to see the baby before I go.” So Fern knew her mother was “leaving” and told the family this with peace in her heart. It was as if her mother had come to tell her good-bye.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

The family all knew that their mother had not visited Fern in her physical body!

As this story was shared with me as a child, I saw God's hand in this situation, and knew there was a supernatural spiritual realm not usually visible with our natural eyes which had appeared at that time. God, in His mysterious ways, and for His own reasons, had performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* which brought comfort to their whole family and especially to Fern!

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born  
and a time to die.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

~ 22 ~

## I WILL RESCUE HIM

"Oh, God, help us!" I began to pray as my husband and I flew in a twin engine plane toward the airport at Marion, Indiana. "We need Your right now, Lord! This plane is having engine trouble! Help my husband land this plane safely!" I prayed hard and fast, over and over, as we descended toward the landing strip.

The plane which my husband was piloting suddenly had one of the two engines quit working as we were in mid-air. Even though he had had training in what to do if this should ever happen, this had never happened to us before! He navigated the plane with his attention riveted on the instrument panel trying to keep the plane level with power coming from one side only. This was very difficult! While his attention was riveted on the instrument panel, my attention was riveted on the Lord. We needed Him right now!

Joyce, my sister, was standing outside the small airport building at Marion with our two young daughters watching for our plane to appear. Kim and Beth were excitedly watching for their Mom and Dad to come and get them after their trip. They loved to visit Aunt Joyce and Uncle Edd, but they also missed Mom and Dad. Their eyes repeatedly looked across the sky to see the first sign of the arriving plane.

As they watched, a plane did indeed come into view off at a distance, but there was something strange about that plane. It had a long trail of gray-white smoke coming from one of its engines - an ominous-looking trail! They began to wonder and ask Aunt Joyce if this could be their parents' plane.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

Joyce, suspecting the worst, knew this probably was! But she did not want the girls to see it coming in and watch what might happen! So she skillfully took them back into the airport building and tried to divert their attention...all the while wondering what was happening outside. She was a praying Christian woman, and she also was calling on the Lord in her heart as much as she could while entertaining Kim and Beth.

Gradually, in what seemed a long period of time, my husband maneuvered the plane toward the runway - closer and closer - while I watched breathlessly and prayed all the way. Was there a fire? We could not see it if there was! Would we be able to land, get out of the plane, and get away from it in time? Unanswered questions assailed my mind in those moments before landing.

God was right there with us in those moments of desperate prayers. We landed safely, got out of the plane, and saw the reason for our engine loss as we watched the smoke coming from it. The smoke was being blown behind us as we flew, so we could not see it while in the cockpit.

We had an extra thankful and joyful reunion with our loved ones in that airport that day! God had spared our lives from the danger near us and kept us for His purposes. He had revealed Himself as our protector and deliverer. He had truly performed one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

As I reflect back on this event etched vividly in my memory, I am reminded that God kept us safe from a possible fuel tank explosion from that burning engine. And I am also reminded that the engine loss could have taken place over a large city or over the countryside instead of near the airport of our destination. God was, indeed, watching over us even before I started praying!

*“Because he loves me,” says the Lord,  
I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.  
He will call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.  
With long life will I satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”  
Psalm 91:14-16*

~ 23 ~

## THE TRAIN TRACKS

John was driving his car home one day along a country road which had little traffic at that time. He had driven along this road many times and felt comfortable knowing what to expect. He was coming upon a railroad track which he had crossed many times before.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

This railroad track was one of those lines which probably used to have trains along it regularly, but now was seldom used any if at all. It was the kind of track where you seldom stopped and looked because you had been over it so many times without seeing a train. John certainly was not accustomed to seeing trains on it!

But this day a very strange event took place as John approached those country train tracks. Just before reaching them, he suddenly saw flashing red warning lights signaling an approaching train. He was so surprised by this he had to slam on his brakes to stop in time. Just as he screeched to a stop at the edge of the tracks, a train passed by immediately in front of his car!

He was visibly shaken by the incident! He went home afterwards and shared this mysterious event with his family. You see, there were no electric signal lights at that crossing!

This has been remembered and discussed for years in our family. It is one of those mysterious ways of God which we cannot explain but at which we marvel. It was truly one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*I warned you when you felt secure.*  
Jeremiah 22:21

~ 24 ~

## SEEK THE GIVER

I was at a Christian Conference with many wonderful people, great speakers, and blessed music. I had come to the conference with an unspoken question in my heart that I wanted answered...unspoken to people, that is. God knew the question in my heart. I hoped I could find the answer at this conference. But there were only two days left and I still did not have it.

The question was about a teaching which I had been hearing and reading...a teaching which said I should seek a specific gift of the Spirit. According to this teaching, if I did not have this particular gift, I was missing something important which God had for me. It seemed I was not “complete” until I received that gift. My question was: “What about that, Lord? Do You want me to ask for and receive that particular gift?”

One afternoon I was planning to attend a session offered at 4:00. But around 2:00 a friend injured herself and needed transportation to the local hospital. So I volunteered, hoping I would still be able to make the session at 4:00. We were finished at the hospital just in time to return to the conference and walk directly to the 4:00 session. As I walked in, the speaker entered with me.

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As she began to share with the group, the answer to my question began coming from her! I sat there in amazement! She said, in essence, that we should not seek any particular gift, but seek the Giver of the gifts and let Him decide what He wants to give each of us. I knew that was my answer! And I had not even told her my question!

I had a great peace about that! I was to seek Jesus, and if He wanted me to have that particular gift, He would give it to me. The gift was not to come before my relationship with Him!

Later, as I shared with the speaker how God had used her to answer my question, she surprised me even further by telling me this: she had sought the Lord about what she should share at the 4:00 session. She did not get an answer, so she left for the session not knowing. She said as we walked in at the last minute God spoke to her about what to say! She and I both knew that it was specifically for me. She felt God waited to tell her what to share to see if I would make it back in time and attend the session. We could both agree this was one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS*!

*The Lord searches every heart  
and understands every motive behind the thoughts.  
If you seek him, he will be found by you.  
1 Chronicles 28:9*

~ 25 ~

## SAWMILL

God sometimes shows HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS in our lives when we are in great need and we cry out to Him for help. That is what happened in the lives of Jean and Jack at the stressful time of a job change which involved a move to a strange city. Jack had just gotten a new job near Columbus, Ohio which was a much larger city than where they lived in Indiana. At the time of this story Jack was already in Columbus and Jean was preparing to drive there to meet him. Together they planned to choose a house to buy so the whole family could move.

Jean felt overwhelmed with the task before them. How were they to find a house in that large city which was just right for their family? The day before her departure to drive alone to Columbus, she was especially concerned with what lay ahead - the decision about the right house. Jean was a Christian and knew God could help her. So, in her need, she cried out to Him, "God, will You show me a sign to help find our house?"

That night as Jean slept, God gave her a dream. Although she awoke not remembering exactly what she dreamed, she did remember a strange thing about that dream...the word *sawmill* kept being repeated in the dream. When she got up she did not think too much about the word *sawmill* because it did not mean anything to her. But - it did to God!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

She started out on her trip to Columbus and things went along quietly for her. As she neared Columbus she began to look for the exit she was to take to meet Jack and the Realtor. Her thoughts were about where to turn off the highway.

As Jean says: “Then all at once I saw it!...a sign along the highway said *SAWMILL!!!* Immediately bells started ringing in my head, and I praised the Lord for His sign to me!”

When she finished her journey and met with Jack and the Realtor, she told them about all this. The Realtor was really surprised because one of the homes she was going to show them was in *Olde Sawmill Addition!*

Yes, they did buy that special house in *Olde Sawmill* and they knew they had the house the Lord had chosen for them! God had just performed another of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in their lives!

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.  
Psalm 16:7*

~ 26 ~

## HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU

My husband and I were returning to Indiana from a trip to Missouri in our small plane. It had been a long day and we were both tired. As we flew through the darkness late that night, the humming sound of the plane began to lull us both to sleep without our realizing it.

The next thing I remember is suddenly awakening. I looked at my husband and saw that he was asleep as I had been. I quickly woke him up!

He immediately looked at the gauges on the instrument panel of the plane and saw that we had dropped about 1000 feet while we slept! Had we continued to sleep, obviously we would have crashed. But, just in time, we had been awakened! God had not been sleeping but watching over us to perform one of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

*He who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
Psalm 121:3-4*



~ 27 ~

## THE WELL OF SALVATION

One day while I was at the summer Christian camp having a Quiet Time before the Lord this event happened to me. I realize now that this is a perfect description of how God has led me throughout my life, yet He gave me this vision before I could see the pattern unfolding....

As this vision began I saw myself standing in front of an old fashioned well - the kind where you had to dip a bucket down into it to get water. Beyond the well was the ocean, yet I drew water from this well.

In my hand was a small dipper. With this dipper I would reach into the well, get a small dipper of water, then reach up and pour that water into the top of my head. It would run down inside me to my feet and begin to fill me.

Slowly I dipped, on and on, filling myself with this water. I sensed the water level rising within me. The task seemed tedious and tiring as it went on for a long, long time.

Then, when the water level inside me reached about two-thirds full, I suddenly found in my hand a much bigger dipper! As I dipped with it I filled up much faster! I could sense the water level coming up higher and higher within my body until I was full.

As I have meditated on this vision and asked the Lord to give me revelation about it, I see that it has two perspectives. One refers to my own spiritual growth which paralleled the picture. It came slowly over many years, then the growth increased and speeded up at a particular point in my adult life.

I think God sometimes shows us something before it happens, then, when it is accomplished, we know He did it and that He knew ahead of time what would happen. It surely gives a feeling of His intricate plan for life, and a feeling of His leading. I remember Jesus told His disciples in John 14:29..."I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."

The second perspective on the vision picture pertains to the church in the world. It, too, has followed the pattern of slow tedious growth, but also will come to a time (and perhaps has already come) of the "big dipper" when the water of the Spirit fills the church quickly.

*With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.*  
Isaiah 12:3

## ANGELS WITH TRUMPETS

The worship leader was leading us in praise and worship songs and we were singing before God. As I shut my eyes while singing one song, suddenly I “saw” this picture. In the picture Jesus was standing before the congregation holding out His hands in blessing over them. They were all bowing their heads like in prayer before Him. It didn’t seem as if anyone was aware of His presence but me.

I was standing in the upper left-hand corner of the back part of the room (where I actually was at the time). The meeting area was shaped with the stage down at the front of the room and the seats sloping upward from there, with the highest seats toward the back. I looked at Jesus and He looked at me.

Then I looked up to my right and saw high up on the right wall of the room three angels holding long trumpets to their mouths. The trumpets were pointed downward toward the people. That was the end of the scene, and I was again aware of the congregation singing the worship song. I was amazed at what had just happened!

Then I opened my eyes and the worship leader lead us in another song. Again, I closed my eyes, and again I suddenly saw the same scene. Jesus was standing in front of the group with His hands out in blessing over them as their heads were bowed. I was standing up in the same spot as before and looking at Jesus. Then I saw the three angels again; but this time they were holding their trumpets in a straight out position. When I opened my eyes again we began singing another song.

This third time I closed my eyes while worshipping and saw the same picture. The only change in the picture was in the position the angels were holding their trumpets. This third time they held the trumpets in an upward position pointed toward the sky. When this happened for the third time I was just stunned by what had happened. I was touched by the vision and was never the same after that. It kept coming into my memory and I pondered what it meant and whether I was to do something about it.

Over time I asked the Lord to show me the meaning of the vision repeated three times. I think now I was seeing into the spiritual realm which exists all the time but which we seldom have eyes to see. I came to realize this represented three time periods in my life under three different authority arrangements:

1. The time I was in my home growing up under my father’s authority.
2. The time I was married and under the authority of my husband.
3. The time I was single again and under God’s authority.

I came to realize it represented to me that I would see Jesus as real and personal and with my spiritual eyes. And this has proven very true over years of time since that vision. I believe it was

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

given three times to especially emphasize that it was “set” and would not change, that this would be a reality over the rest of my life. I am now in the third “trumpets held up” stage which I believe also represents the end times and that the coming of Jesus for His bride in the rapture is not far away.

*Listen, I tell you a mystery:  
We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed -  
in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.  
For the trumpet will sound,  
the dead will be raised imperishable,  
and we will be changed.  
1 Corinthians 15:51-52*

~ 29 ~

## PICTURE OF A PATHWAY

In this picture I was walking on a pathway and Jesus was walking backwards ahead of me, facing me, and holding on to my hands. He let me know that, if I would keep my hands in His, He would keep me on the right pathway and keep me from falling off the side of the road.

*He guides me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Psalm 23:3*

~ 30 ~

## PICTURE OF A FAN

Another day I saw a picture of an opened fan looking like a turkey tail. At the top of each fan section an instruction was written. The understanding came to me that different people in the Body of Christ were to respond to these different instructions according to their giftedness and God's leading. As they did this all the instructions could be completed--as each one did his part. The piece of fan given to me had this instruction on it: “Follow Me.”

*They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.  
Revelation 14:4*

~ 31 ~

## THE VISION OF THE BUBBLE

In this vision I saw myself inside a bubble which seemed like acrylic. I was able to see through the bubble, but it kept me safe from things outside of me. I thought I might get up and leave the bubble to help a person I knew who needed help, but the Lord said, “No.” I was to stay in the bubble and let Him go to that other person to give help. I watched Him leave to do that. There was no door in the bubble for me to use to exit anyway. The bubble seemed to represent His presence around me.

*In the shelter of your presence  
You hide them.  
Psalm 31:20*

~ 32 ~

## MOM'S STORY

My Mother was scheduled for open heart surgery at the University Medical Center in Columbia where we lived. She was in the hospital the night before the surgery was to be held the next day, and had this experience, which she wrote out in her own words:

The evening before my surgery (open heart) Rev. Lon Calaway from the Assembly of God Church came to my room, anointed me and said a healing prayer for me. I was so grateful to him.

On the 9th evening after my surgery, I had a dream, which I now think must have been a vision. I could see a screen up on the wall with little tiny beings covering most of it. They resembled a bent wire, with one leg longer than the other - reminding me of a praying mantis without any head. They were of the purest white light, and shiny and radiant.

Up in the top right hand corner of the screen was a book - shaped like a church window, and I could hear a voice, that I took to be the voice of God, reading from the book, in biblical terms, but explaining the little radiant beings. The voice told me this was a form of healing going on in my body, which hadn't been discovered yet (by man) and as yet there was no name for it. He told me that these little radiant healing agents were scouring my arteries and lungs to heal them. I kept

wondering why I had never read this in the Bible, but reasoned later that the voice had said that it wasn't discovered yet and so it probably wasn't in the Bible which we have. I had great peace of mind.

And then another picture was shown me. I and three other open heart patients were in the Thoracic Intensive Care Unit and I could see 3 men-like creatures at the door, trying to get in. They seemed to represent the evil forces in the world. I was told or knew somehow they were trying to get in to kill all of us. I seemed to have peace of mind about it, for I was sure they would never get that door open. They didn't, and soon the pictures faded.

Later in the night I had another dream but I remember nothing about it, so I concluded that it was just an ordinary dream.

The first two pictures seem to get stronger and more fixed in my mind all of the time.

I was so grateful to God that I had the healing picture first as I had great peace of mind, and I just knew that those evil forces would never get that door open, to get in to kill us.

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
Will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:7*

~ 33 ~

## PICTURE OF A MAZE

I saw in my mind the picture of a maze, as if I were looking down on it from above. I saw myself in this maze, letting the Lord lead me each way it went. The thought came to me: How could He really teach me and test me on following Him if He did not lead me in some ways that were different, not logical to me. If He only led me in ways I expected, ways He had led me before, that would not really test and grow my ability to follow Him. Even if He said, "Do nothing," I was to follow that. That might be the best for me at that time.

Then I wrote these words from Him:

*I am leading you,  
like in a maze.  
You do not see each turn  
or see to the side.  
Just keep following Me  
moment by moment.  
It is a lonely path*

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

*but I am always with you.  
I will always show you  
the way to go.*

~ 34 ~

## HIS MOST MARVELOUS DEED

The *Most Marvelous Deed* God ever did in my life happened when He made me a *new creation* in Christ Jesus! You see, God loved me so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to pay the penalty (death) for my sin so that, if I believed in Him, I could be forgiven for my sin and receive eternal life in heaven.

All I had to do to receive this free gift of eternal life was to believe and ask:

1. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was crucified on the cross, who died in my place to pay the penalty for my sin, and who was resurrected from the dead.
2. Ask Him to forgive me for my sin and come into my heart and live in me.

The Scripture says: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

It also says: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

If you have not asked Jesus to come into your heart (or if you want to be sure you are saved) I pray you ask Him right now as you read this. Then the *Most Marvelous Deed* will be performed in your life also. Then you, too, can be a *new creation* in Christ!

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

~ 35 ~

## OUT OF GAS

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

We were driving along on the bypass highway #495 around Indianapolis, Indiana, on our way to our family reunion north of there. This trip from Columbia, Missouri, took us about 9-10 hours and needed to include one stop for a gas refill for our car. But for some reason, I don't remember why, we hadn't yet stopped for gas.

As we drove along I suddenly remembered we needed to stop for gas. I looked at the gas gauge to be horrified to find it on empty! I told Beth, my daughter, that we needed to stop at the very next exit and find a gas station!!!

As we came to the next exit and drove up the ramp, there was not a single gas station in sight, only lots of trees! Not even a town or buildings which might give us a clue. Which way should I turn to get to the closest station? How could I know? I prayed and asked the Lord to guide me in making the right decision.

I turned to the right and soon found a station. As I came near it, I ran completely out of gas, the engine stopped, and the car drifted to within about 10 feet of the gas pump! We got out and pushed the car the rest of the way to the pump....and got the needed gas just in time!

I still think of that event as one of *His Marvelous Deeds* in my life. He guided me to remember just in time that I needed gas. He guided me to make the correct turn when I couldn't see physically any reason to choose one way over the other. And He got me close enough to the gas pump that we could push the car there ourselves. (We might have gotten a little help from the gas station attendant!) Wasn't that marvelous?

When I think about the alternative of being stuck on the highway out of gas (and no cell phones then!) I appreciate all the more what the Lord did to protect us. Thank You, Lord!

*Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help and he will say: Here am I....  
The Lord will guide you always.  
(Isaiah 58:9, 11)*

~ 36 ~

## PALM SUNDAY TORNADO DAY

It was Palm Sunday and I was visiting my parents' home in the New Haven, Indiana, area. That afternoon my brother, Jack, and I were outside enjoying the warm spring air where there was a hefty wind blowing. Jack was flying a kite and taking advantage of that wind. We were amazed during that time to notice that the wind changed direction. We could tell because of the kite and where it blew. The sky got darker and darker with storm clouds and the wind blew even harder.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

Later that afternoon we became aware there were tornadoes around our area as our electricity went out and the storm became even worse. I found a small battery powered radio that I had given my parents for a gift previously, and we listened to the growing reports of tornadoes touching down throughout Indiana. We sat in the darkening rooms of their house and listened and wondered if our area would be hit too. Because of the electrical blackout, the radio station went on emergency power and continued broadcasting, and we continued our anxious listening.

We were especially concerned about my sister, Joyce, and her family, who lived in Marion, Indiana. We heard reports about 3 tornadoes touching down there. All phone lines in and out were overloaded or out, so we couldn't call them. The broadcasters told people not to drive there or call there. Power lines were down, etc. so it was not safe.

We kept trying to find out about them and whether their home had been hit by the tornado. Finally Joyce was able to get through to us by phone from a friend's house in the country near Marion where she and her family had gone after their electricity went out. She explained about the storm hitting their house, with hail and fierce winds, but no tornado. We were very thankful for that! The reports were telling about many, many tornadoes hitting all around Indiana! Something like twenty-seven tornadoes altogether!

For three days we were without electrical power. But God had provided for me by having me at my parents' home during that time where my dad had an old wood stove in his workshop. We could heat food on that even though our electric stove in the house wouldn't work

I look back on that event as one of *His Marvelous Deeds* when God took care of me and my loved ones. In my mind it still remains the Palm Sunday tornado day.

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the Lord, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”  
(Isaiah 43:1-3)*

~ 37 ~

## HE PROVIDED FOR US

This story happened during my college days. You know, back then (1955) many college students didn't have much money, but had lots of adventuresome spirit. That's the way we were as six of us



students began the return trip from a youth conference in Virginia back to college in central Indiana. But, we wanted to take the long way home and see some tourist sights on the way! Hmmm! Maybe not such a good idea, but we set out in J's car toward Washington D.C. to see the White House and other famous sights by night.

After driving all night, the next day we got to New York City and were tourists there as long as we could be. While we were having fun, our car caused us trouble and we had to get repairs there...something like a water pump going out and needing to be replaced. Then we set out on the long trip home by turnpike from New York to Indiana. It was a cold winter day and the gas line froze up on our car along the turnpike. That delayed us even further but we were helped by a policeman driving by.

That evening, about 40 miles from the college, we stopped by my parents' home and were treated to a great meal by my mom. During the meal we counted what money we had left, and discovered we had \$.96 among all six of us! That's how close we came to running out of money! This was a time before credit cards, so we didn't have that option. My parents gave us enough money to make it back to college.

Even with the risky and sometimes foolish ways of young people, we were sustained by the Lord and He provided for us. This was another of *His Marvelous Deeds* in my life.

*And my God will meet all your needs  
according to his glorious riches  
in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19*

~ 38 ~

## WRONG TURN!

It was January of 1986 and I received word that my father had died. I was driving from Columbia, Missouri, to New Haven, Indiana, where the funeral would be held. This would be a drive of about nine hours and I would be driving by myself. There must have been road construction or some reason why I took a different highway than usual this time, but I took I-70 that went through St. Louis rather than the bypass highway. I was not familiar with this part of I-70 and was trying to be careful.

Suddenly I noticed a long, long line of cars to my right on an off-ramp from the main highway. I wondered why there was such a long line there. Then I became aware that the off-ramp led to the continuation of I-70 and I had just missed my exit that would lead me to it. Just that quickly, I was

now on the wrong road going through the middle of St. Louis! Since I was not used to driving this section of I-70, this caught me by surprise.

I thought I would just take the next exit, turn around and head back to where I-70 made that turn, and get back on it. Simple, right? Well, it didn't turn out to be simple. When I exited at the next opportunity there was no way to turn around and get back on the same highway to return to the I-70 exit I had missed. I suddenly found myself in the streets of St. Louis with no way back on to the highway - and not in a part of that city that was very inviting. I drove around trying to find some way to get back on my highway.

It was scary driving by myself in a unfamiliar town and in that particular part of it that looked dangerous to me. I drove around and around looking for help to get directions, but I didn't want to stop anywhere that I saw. Finally I found a church, felt safe enough there, and stopped to get directions back to I-70. After getting them I was able to find my way back there and continue on my trip to Indiana.

I was jarred by the experience! How could I so suddenly and quickly get lost in a huge city and be in a situation where I didn't want to stop my car and ask directions from anyone around there. Then I found that church and felt safe. I was very thankful God can lead us to places of safety even in the midst of dangerous situations. Even when we make a wrong turn, He can guide us in the midst of it to find the right way back. I consider this guidance that day as another of *His Marvelous Deeds* which I want to tell others about.

*I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,  
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*  
(Isaiah 42:16)

~ 39 ~

## SNOWSTORM

Oh, how I remember that blizzard! It was a snow blizzard, that's for sure! One of the worst I ever drove in, in all of my life! And I was not a very experienced driver-- especially in snow. I was driving to my parents' home along U. S. Hwy 30 near New Haven, Indiana, that blowy, snowy, blizzardy day, and trying my best to see the road ahead of me. It was one of those times you might call a "white out" because I could not see where I was going! I really could not! I could not see the side of the road or the center of the road! Oh, my! What was I going to do! I couldn't see even to know where to pull off the road to stop!

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

Well, that got taken care of for me. Before I knew what happened I slid off into a ditch and the car got stuck there. Since I couldn't get the car to go out of that ditch, I got out of the car and started walking toward home. Praise God, I wasn't very far from my home, only about a quarter mile!

When I got home my father and brothers walked back to where I had left my car and soon returned with it. I don't know how they got it out of the ditch in that storm, but they did! I imagine with lots of pushing the car and spinning wheels.

I've never forgotten that snowstorm when I couldn't see to drive. I look back at that event as one of *His Marvelous Deeds* when I think about other possibilities that might have happened. For instance, I might have run head on into another car going in the opposite direction who couldn't see me or the road either. I could have slid off the road much, much farther from home and had longer to walk in the storm. But I now realize how much God was looking out for me that snowy day. Thank You, God!

*For I am the Lord, your God,  
who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,  
Do not fear; I will help you.  
(Isaiah 41:13)*

~ 40 ~

## ACCIDENT ON A BIKE

JEFF: This happened on the afternoon of April 29, 1985. I had just gotten home from school and after school I was going out for a little ride on my motorbike. (Jeff was partially sighted so had to be very careful about riding his bike.) I was going down the country road that went in front of my house which usually it wasn't too crowded. There wasn't much on that road so I could safely go down there and not have to worry about a lot of cars. I wasn't going any place in particular, just going for a good long ride just to relax. I wanted to get out. It was a nice day, kind of cool out, I remember, and it was windy. I started riding down the road and kind of relaxed. I enjoyed being out in the wind and the sun and it felt really good.

I got down to a crossroad that's one of the only intersections on the road that I ride on, and I had to stop at it to let cars come through from the other way. There's a stop sign there for my way, so I had to stop and wait to find out if there was any cross traffic. This had always been the intersection I was scared of. There usually wasn't anybody coming, but I would hear them before I could see them because of my visually limited sight. Today it was a little scary because it was windy, and usually, when it's windy, I had a hard time hearing if there were other cars coming from either direction.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

This day I got down to the intersection--and this is where I draw a blank about what happened. But later on Mom or someone told me that a car came up behind me and stopped. I was the first one at the intersection. Usually I don't mind being cautious and holding up traffic, but this day I thought I was holding him up. And I thought: if there's really nobody coming and I just can't hear, then I don't want to hold him up. I think I just got nervous and started across the intersection; and because it was windy, I didn't hear this other car coming at me.

That's when I got hit. I don't remember anything about the hit. I've tried for years to remember. The next thing I remember I was lying in the field--across the road in a dirt field. I knew I was in the dirt, and I knew I got hit, and I felt real heavy. I couldn't move. I kind of drifted in and out as far as what I remember. I do remember a bunch of people being around me and it sounded like they were talking really low. I guess that's just the way I was hearing things. I remember Mom coming up. I knew her out of the crowd. She came up while I was lying out there waiting for them to come to pick me up.

I remember being picked up and loaded on a stretcher in an ambulance. I knew I was in an ambulance, and I thought, "Wow! I've never ridden in one." I knew where I was. It was weird. I knew I was in this ambulance and that I was going to the hospital. I figured I must have gotten hit. I think Mom was there with me in the ambulance. Then I remembered, "Well, I'm still alive!"

I don't remember in the hospital itself except I remember dad telling me a bunch of things while I was in the emergency room waiting to get operated on. I know I just wanted them to get me off of my side because I was lying on my arm. That whole day was just a loss. I remember waking up in the hospital bed and I was in traction.

CAROL (Jeff's mom): One of the main things I remember was that Jeff did not have a helmet on. He was never made to wear a helmet because of his eyesight. (He needed to be able to hear cars coming) I was just fixing supper and I saw the ambulance go down the road. All I could think of was Jeff at the time. Then I saw a neighbor turn in to my driveway, and my heart just stopped. She said, "Carol, come with me." And I said, "Jeff?" and she said, "Yes." I said, "Is he hurt bad?" And she said, "He's alert. He's saying how his leg hurts...saying my leg, my leg." Then I went with the neighbor down to where Jeff was. I tried to talk to him and said, "Just pray, just keep praying, Jeff, I'm here. I'm right here with you."

The car that hit Jeff was going about 45 mph and they don't know how Jeff kept from being hit into a pole that was right there. They could see that his leg was broken. He had a few scratches on his back, but no facial injuries, nothing, and without a helmet and as hard as he was hit! Since then there have been several kids killed at that intersection, so Jeff was lucky!

JEFF: I was supposed to be in traction for six weeks and a body cast for a couple months, but it started healing really fast, so they had to get me out of traction within a week and a half. Then they put a plate in there and I was out of the hospital a week later just on crutches. It healed really quickly! I didn't even have to be in a cast.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

CAROL: I feel that God was watching over Jeff. He could have hit that pole. He could have had brain damage. Without any other injuries, I feel like the Lord was with him! And the way he healed! They thought he would be in a body cast, and that wasn't necessary.

This was truly one of *His Marvelous Deeds* in Jeff's life.

*The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.*  
(Psalm 121:8)

~ 41 ~

## FAN BELT TROUBLE

It was April 17, 1963, and I had just left Marion, Indiana, to return to my home in New Haven, Indiana. I was driving an old car that my dear father had purchased for me to use during that time as I stayed at my parents' home and went to graduate school. It was such a blessing for him to do that for me! I was driving north on the highway along country fields when, all of a sudden, my car overheated and shot out all its water. I stopped along the highway wondering what to do.

*God help me! What do I do now?* As I sat in my car, a man came up to my car and asked if he could help me. *Thanks, God!* He looked at my engine and saw what was wrong. The fan belt had broken so the car wasn't getting cooled properly. He told me that was the trouble and said he could fix it for me.

He said he was a farmer that lived near there and he kept spare fan belts around for his farm machinery. He brought one, replaced my broken one, and put water in the radiator. When I thanked him and tried to pay him for it, he would not take anything for all his help.

Now I wonder if that was an angel sent to rescue me. I don't remember seeing any farmhouse near. And he appeared at my car and offered his help. Hmmm! Well, anyway this was truly one of *His Marvelous Deeds* in my life that I have remembered all these many years later for which I am still grateful.

*A righteous man may have many troubles,  
but the Lord delivers him from them all.*  
(Psalm 34:19)

~ 42 ~

## HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE

We were driving along I-70 somewhere between Missouri and Indiana. There were three of us making that trip to our family gathering: Beth, her friend JW, and me. I think Beth was driving and I was resting when this happened. The car suddenly stopped as we ran out of gas! What were we going to do now?

After talking about it awhile we decided I should stay with the car in case help came along, and Beth and JW would walk to the next exit and see if they could get some gas to bring back. They started out walking and I sat waiting. And praying! *Lord, work this out for us!*

Well, He did! Very soon a car came along and picked up Beth and JW--the car of an off-duty sheriff, of all people! He took them to a gas station, helped them get gas, and brought them back to our car. Wasn't that wonderful of him? We were all so thankful! The Lord had just performed another one of *His Marvelous Deeds* for us. He sure is good to us!

*The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.*  
Psalm 37:39

~ 43 ~

## MY TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY

Perhaps every adult remembers his/her twenty-first birthday because that is the day you officially become an adult. It should be a very special day, right? Well, mine was very, *very* special, but not in the way I wanted it to be. I was a junior in college, and it began as I sat in the chapel for the presentation that morning...

As I sat there I gradually began to have this overwhelming feeling of dread, of something awful about to happen, of getting really sick. I was such a shy person I didn't want to get up during the talk being presented and walk out in front of those hundreds of eyes looking at me. After all I did sit that day on the second row from the front in the middle area of the chapel, and it would be very visible to everyone when I left. But I knew I just had to leave! The overpowering feeling kept getting worse and worse by the minute.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

So I stood up and walked to the side door conscious of all eyes being on me as I did so. As soon as I got outside I started to run as fast as I could toward my dorm because something awful was starting to happen to me. I ran to the dorm, ran inside into the hallway, then to the nearest bathroom. As soon as I got there I almost collapsed on the floor in front of a stool and began to vomit over and over and over. As I did all my energy left me and I was suddenly in great pain...so great I couldn't even stand up.

Then I knew I was really in trouble! I had been having internal pain off and on for weeks before this, and had even been to see a doctor about it the week before, but nothing was diagnosed. Now, here I was, sitting on the floor of the bathroom, unable to stand, and no one was around to help me. *What was I going to do?*

I decided I needed to contact the college nurse a.s.a.p. To get to the telephone in the dorm office I would have to travel quite a way down the hall and through the lobby...and I couldn't stand up! So I did what I could do - I crawled on my hands and knees toward the office, calling out to anyone who might be around to help me. But - no help answered!

I reached up from the office floor and got the telephone off the desk and called the college nurse. She said she would be right over and suggested I go to my room (which was on the second floor). So I crawled on my hands and knees up the stairs and crawled into my bed while doubled up and moaning and groaning out loud with pain. I couldn't hold back the groans, it was so bad.

Finally the nurse arrived and helped me downstairs and into her car to take me to the doctor. As he examined me I just kept saying over and over, "Please give me something for the pain! Please give me something for the pain!" After examining me he did give me something for the pain which pretty well knocked me out until the ambulance could get there to take me to Fort Wayne to Parkview Hospital - about a 40 mile trip. Someone contacted my sister, who was also a student at the same college at that time, and she went with me in the ambulance.

When I arrived at the emergency room I was asked if I could sign myself in, and I responded that I guess I could since I just turned 21 that day - it was my birthday! *Happy Birthday!* Someone contacted my mother who was teaching school, and she came right to the emergency room also and stayed with me. I remember enough to remember going into the operating room. This was a totally new experience for me! I think they told me to count backwards as they put me out, and then I was really put out of pain!

When I woke up later, after surgery, I was told that I had a tumor on my right ovary about the size of a small grapefruit, and they had removed it. They said that while I was under the anesthetic I kept saying something like, "Why does it have to happen to us girls all the time; why can't it happen to the boys sometimes?" Why I would say that, I surely don't know, but they thought it was really funny!

They gave me good care and I was able to return to school in about a week, even though I was still standing crooked from the incision and surgery. Eventually that healed too. And I remember this as one of those times when God went with me through a great trauma and took care of me when I couldn't take care of myself. It was one of *His Marvelous Deeds* in my life.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*  
Psalm 23:4

~ 44 ~

## OUT WALKING

I was out taking a walk around my neighborhood for exercise. As I neared my home this beautiful miniature collie, my favorite type of dog, (which I had never seen before) came along beside me and ran along at my pace, accompanying me on my walk. I talked to him and he just trotted along happily.

Two other dogs came near but didn't come any closer. Hmmm. I wondered about all this. This had never happened to me before in all my neighborhood walks, and never did again after that day...just this one time. The beautiful collie walked me all the way home. After going into my apartment, I watched out the front window and saw that he was sitting quietly on the front walk. Hmmm. What was this?

Could this have been a gift sent from God to delight me and protect me during that particular time - protect me from a danger I wasn't even aware of? Was this collie protecting me from the two other dogs that ran toward me, but stopped because of the collie?

I have remembered this event for many years as one of *His Marvelous Deeds*. A most unusual event for me! Thank You, Lord.

*The Lord is good...  
He cares for those who trust in him.*  
Nahum 1:7

~ 45 ~

## A FUNNY STORY about THE CHICKENS

When I was a child we lived in the country on a 3/4 acre lot. About half of that lot was taken up by our house, garage, driveway, some trees, etc. The rest was mostly put into garden and an area for



raising chickens. So each spring my father bought about 30-40 baby chicks. These were put into the chicken grazing area and taken care of so they would eventually furnish us with eggs and then meat. I guess that's one reason we often had chicken for Sunday dinner!

As youngsters we children used to participate in 4-H clubs and do projects for that. At the end of the summer we would display an example of our projects for judging, hoping to receive a high rating and some prize money which came with that.

One summer my sister, Joyce, chose "chickens" as one of her projects. She had to feed and take care of them and report on this for her project. And she had to display a chicken to be judged at the county fair. She kept very thorough records all summer long and intended to exhibit -- until it came time to do so. The hens were all bad looking, with basically few or no feathers on their breasts. She thought they looked so pathetic she didn't have any in the cage when the 4-H leader arrived to pick hers up and take it to the fair.

The leader convinced Joyce to quickly grab one and put it in the cage so her club could have 100% of the club exhibiting. That was basically the reason she went ahead and exhibited one of her hens. The detailed records she had kept showed the excellent layers the chickens were, and evidently the lack of breast feathers was a sign of a good layer. She didn't know all that until after she got a "championship" ribbon and saw the judge's remarks.

It turned out that the bad-looking chicken won the prize! We could hardly believe it! When we inquired about why that poor looking (we thought) chicken had won the prize we were told it was the way good laying chickens should be, in spite of its outside looks. Oh, did we get a laugh out of that situation! And to think she almost didn't send in an exhibit!

As I thought of this as an adult and chuckled about it again, the Holy Spirit impressed me that God is a little like that judge at the county fair. He doesn't look on the outside to see how "fixed up" and pretty we look, but He looks at our hearts to see how we are toward Him - whether we are healthy and right, the way He wants humans to be, with a heart toward Him...and whether we produce the fruit He designed us to produce. So maybe we should put our attention on how we are on the inside rather than how we look on the outside.

*The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.  
Man looks at the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks at the heart.  
(1 Samuel 16:7)*

~ 46 ~

SHE SENT FORTH GOD'S WORD

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

Joyce, my sister, found out she had a pre-cancerous tumor on her pancreas and went through major surgery on February 2004. She had a portion of her pancreas removed at that time and had a slow, but steady, recovery after that time. Four months after her pancreas surgery her doctor ordered a blood test. That first test showed her “diabetic” count at 6.3 (6.5 was diabetic). She was told that diet and exercise wouldn’t affect her results, as it was happening because of the trauma to her body caused by the surgery.

The doctor told her that her pancreas was producing insulin, but her body cells weren’t utilizing it to deal with the sugars. She was told not to eat desserts and only a little chocolate occasionally. Joyce followed that faithfully, even through Thanksgiving and Christmas. The doctor put her on Actos and told her that she would probably have to increase the amount gradually.

Joyce had received a copy of Ruth Shinness’ book titled *Prayer Strategy Resource Book* which gives testimony to how to unlock the heavens by praying God’s Word. Ruth teaches “how the average anybody can fine tune their prayer life with Scriptural skills, so the heavens will burst forth into the blessings Jesus already died to give them...Ruth’s way of prayer activates heaven, so it is not you doing the work, but Jesus working His will in and through you....It is like you are going along for the ride and being amazed at every turn as He unfolds His goodness He has always wanted to give you.”

Her next blood test was eight months after the surgery and her “diabetic count” was 6.4 that time...even a bit higher than the previous count. After this second blood test showing 6.4 Joyce picked up the book by Ruth and thought she would try what Ruth taught about. Joyce would say those Scriptures (and declare them as accomplished positive statements) for healing, maybe four or five of those printed in the book, each day. She didn’t always say the same ones, but varied them. She would try to do this each morning. And during the day she would repeat them as she thought of them. The one that meant the most for her was “I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.” (Exodus 23:25 KJV) She included “sickness and disease” in the middle of it.

Joyce had no particular sense of anything different going on inside her body. But one thing she discovered was that it made her realize that “it was all Him” and “nothing of me or my efforts” was involved. She just said the words, believing they were true. She came to a point that she “knew” her healing was happening. That may have come at the point where her eyes, which had been blurry for a long time due to this problem, weren’t getting blurry anymore.

She kept praying the healing Scriptures daily for the four months. Then, on her last blood test in February 2005, her diabetic count was back to normal at 5.6 (normal is 4.8-6.0). The only thing she had done differently was praying the Scriptures a few minutes each day. She would definitely call this one of *His Marvelous Deeds!* As she shared this testimony in her Sunday School class and with friends and family, several people wanted a copy of the book. Joyce thanks the Lord for giving her this answer and that it was evident so fast!

*He sent forth his word and healed them.*

Psalm 107:20

~ 47 ~

## I HAVE HOPE NOW

My sister wrote to me with this story about how God used an accident to help her arm where she had been having pain and non-movement:

I have to tell you what happened at the airport as we were getting off the plane on August 9<sup>th</sup>. As we descended the rather steep outdoor ramp, my left ankle gave way and I fell. As I was going down, I grabbed the railing with my left hand and it broke my fall so I didn't hurt my back.

Afterwards, my arm felt better than it had in a year, so I guess I broke some "adhesion" in there that was causing the pain and non-movement.

But I snapped something in my shoulder and it sure hurt for a while. I went to the Physical Therapist today to get some more relief for my shoulder. So now I'm scheduled for 7 PT treatments in the next 3 weeks and some exercises to do at home. I have hope now that it is on the mend.

*For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
they will lift you up in their hands,  
so you will not strike your foot against a stone.  
Psalm 91:11-12*

~ 48 ~

## A LETTER ABOUT JEFF'S MIRACLE

Jeff was born mostly blind. Legally he was classified as blind, although he could see just a tiny bit, but not like a sighted person could see. Jeff had exciting news which John and Carol, his parents, wrote about to me in the spring.

Jeff heard on local news about a girl who was able to significantly regain her sight through the use of a device from a company called eSight located in Canada. He contacted them and scheduled a demo in Ann Arbor, MI which John and Carol and his wife, Angie, took him to.

## HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS

When he used the device the result was magical. He went from 20-400 vision to 20-40. He said it was the first time he had clearly seen Angie, his wife's, face or his parents' faces. Angie was crying at one point it was so dramatic.

The eSight device cost \$15,000 so an internet site was set up called "go fund me" so people could help Jeff fund this. In John and Carol's letter they said one-half of the funds had already come in.

Jeff was hoping to get the glasses by June so he could watch his daughter graduate.

Continuing In his letter, John said:

On April 30th a benefit hog roast and auction was held at the Hoagland community center. This was put together by some of Jeff's high school classmates - one of whom is a DJ on a local country music station. The DJ had been promoting it on the air regularly. Flyers were put out all over the area by the team spearheading the effort. Lots of very nice items had been donated for the auction.

Michaela's high school choir came out the morning of April 30th and sang the national anthem to kick off a 5K run/walk also included in the benefit event. Jeff, his wife Angie, and his children Michaela and Collin, all participated in the 5K.

The evening of the 30th the weather was terrible; raining and cold. It was supposed to start at 5:00 p.m. Carol and I were helping it get set up. Jeff came over to me about 4:30 and said he didn't think anyone would show up.

Well, at 5:00 people started pouring in. Shortly the place was packed. I was collecting money at the door. The meal was \$9.00. Almost everyone coming in would pay more than needed and would not accept any change for their \$20 bill or whatever they gave to pay.

The auction went great. The auctioneer was also a member of Jeff's high school class. He was very funny and kept it all flowing beautifully.

In short the night was a great success! Jeff gave a very nice talk to the crowd thanking them for their support. We were proud of him and all the volunteers who made it happen.

Bottom line: the financial goal was met, the eSight device was purchased and delivered, and Jeff is getting training on it. He has used it a good bit without the benefit of training and it works very well.

The goal was actually exceeded by a bit. Jeff announced at the benefit he intends to donate some of the over amount to similar local funding drives for eSight. Some will be put back for probable upgrades to the device in the near future.

Truly a heartwarming story all around!

*Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*  
Matthew 6:8

~ 49 ~

## SCRIPTURES ON THE LORD'S MARVELOUS DEEDS

**Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. - Psalm 96:2-3**

**Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come. - Psalm 71:17-18**

**I go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. - Psalm 26:7**

**I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. - Psalm 9:1**

**All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. - Psalm 86:9-10**

**Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel who alone does marvelous deeds. - Psalm 72:18**

**Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. - Psalm 111:2-3**

**He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. - Job 5:9**