



(Fort Babine, B.C. on Babine Lake)

THE STREETCORNER

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me.” John 14:6 NIV

In May of 2001, a team of 6 students from Trinity Western University spent one month in the village of Fort Babine, (on the North end of Babine Lake). One of the students was David Ducklow from West Vancouver. Here is his testimony of the miracle God worked in his life, proving the prayer answering power of God!

MIRACLE ON FOX STREET

By David Ducklow

Everybody has a testimony. A testimony is a story about a test which a person has encountered, and how they have dealt with that problem. In a court, the testimony of a witness is expressing what they saw take place. The judge then makes a decision based on their testimony whether a defendant is guilty of a crime.

“MY PARENTS WERE TOLD THAT I WAS GRAVELY ILL AND WOULD DIE...”

For a Christian, their testimony is the telling of what God has done in a person’s life. Therefore, you could say, “I caught God doing this thing in a person’s life.” For the next few minutes, I want to tell you my testimony and what I experienced God doing.

My testimony starts at my birth, on November 27, 1978 when I was born with a life-threatening sickness called Hydrocephalus. Before I was born, my parents expected that their first child would be born healthy with no difficulties. However, just prior to my birth, my parents were told that I was gravely ill and would die soon after my arrival on this planet. They said that I had a sickness called Hydrocephalus, which means “water on the brain.” This meant that while I was still in my mother’s womb, I was not developing the way normal babies do, and my brain was severely deformed. After a CAT scan, the doctors determined that I had approximately 2% living brain tissue. They said I was a “vegetable,” which is a person who is unable to do anything for himself. This news was shocking to my parents, who were looking forward to starting their new family in their new home on Fox Street in West Vancouver, British Columbia.

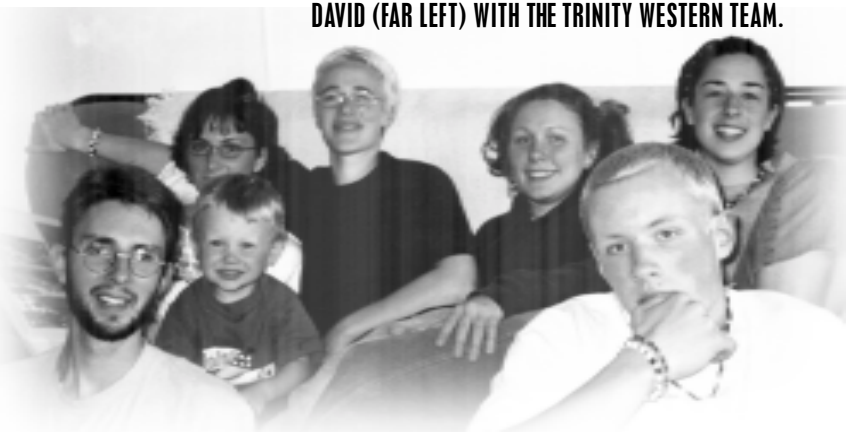
When my Dad held me, he saw that I had a head the size of a two-year-old child, which was roughly the width of my baby-size shoulders. He felt my head, which was as soft as a sponge, due to the amount of water that was in my head. He heard that I made no sound due to the fact that I had not enough brain tissue, even to cry.

My father sensed God tell him to name me “David,” (which means ‘beloved of God’), “Joseph,” (which means ‘He shall add’). At this, Dad knew, first of all, that God loved me, and he believed that God would add brain cells to my tiny brain.

Mom and Dad then listened to the doctors as they told them why I was this way and how Hydrocephalus takes place. “Before a baby is born,” they explained, “water travels up and down its spinal column several times per day. This fluid makes sure that the vital pathways in the body are clear, so the body’s essential organs may continue to work. What happened in David’s case is that somehow, the fluid was unable to make it all the way down his spinal column. Through time, water backed up his spinal column and filled his head, crushing his brain to 2%.”

The doctors continued. “In order for any child to live an ordinary life, they must be born with at least 48% brain and most babies are born with 100% brain. The amount of brain tissue a child is born with is the most brain tissue that he/she will ever have. Brain cells never multiply.”

The doctors determined that I would live no longer than one or two days and therefore, there was no use for them to try and save my young life, which was only several hours old. They said, “we could perform surgery on your son to give him a shunt, which is a



DAVID (FAR LEFT) WITH THE TRINITY WESTERN TEAM.

tube that would drain fluid from his head to his stomach, taking pressure off of his brain and water out of his head. However, this surgery has only been done a couple of times and it is only two years old. Therefore, we cannot be certain that it would work perfectly. However, if it does work, we can guarantee that he will still lose his life because brain cells do not grow and he needs at least 48% brain to live and much more than that to live an exceptional life.

In many circumstances, a problem such as this may not be able to be overcome. But, my parents believed that Jesus was able to heal me so that I might be able to live a normal life.

When Jesus walked this earth two thousand years ago, there was little that impressed him more than faith shown by regular human beings around him. My parents read a story in the Bible from Luke 18 which encouraged them to pray until something happened in my life. They were encouraged by these words of Scripture: "Will not God make the things that are right come to His chosen people who cry day and night to Him? Will He wait a long time to help them? I tell you, He will be quick to help them, but when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7,8. New Life Version)

Therefore, my parents, together with other Christians who heard about my predicament, started to pray and have faith that Jesus would work a miracle in my life. They prayed that God would multiply my brain cells so that I would be able to live without the help of machines. They prayed that just as Jesus made the lame walk, made the blind see and gave life to those who were dead, that Jesus would give me brain cells so I would become a normal human being.

After six months of continuous prayer, the doctors were amazed to find that I had 25% brain. But because twenty-five percent was not enough, they continued to pray. Six months later, the doctors were amazed to find 50% brain. By this point, I was one year old

and was slowly learning how to do simple things. My parents and those who consistently prayed for me were in awe at what God was doing, full of praise and thanksgiving to him. As people continued to pray on my behalf, the Lord heard their prayers and continued to answer them. Their prayers were answered when the doctors took a final CAT scan prior to my second birthday and found 98% brain tissue.

By this time, I was able to do most things that a two-year-old child could do. The only problem, which has persisted since my early days of life, is a severe visual impairment. The doctors have determined on many occasions that I have only 2.5% vision in my left eye and 3% vision in my right. However, this was enough vision to get me through my first nine years of grade school.

In grade nine while I was thirteen, I suffered a stroke, which paralyzed the entire right side of my body. Before I came out of the coma, doctors in San Diego, California performed surgery to place a second shunt down the left side of my body. For years, I had had scars on my stomach which my parents termed "scars of courage." By the time the surgery was done in 1991, I now had twice as many scars to boast of.

Though my parent's originally gave me the credit for the courage I had to go through the many hours of surgery I endured, I must transfer the credit to Jesus as he was the one who healed me. I must remember that I cannot take pride in myself as someone who has gone through so much, but this story serves as a reminder to me and anyone else who reads it, that God can and does heal us today.

As I reflect on how God has helped me deal with my problems and succeed through them, I know that he can work the same miracle in the lives of people anywhere. God is willing and able to make your life a testimony of his ability to transform a life. My life was turned around by prayer offered in simple faith. Your new life can begin the same way. All we must do is ask. □

DAVID DUCKLOW, SUMMER 2001



ABSOLUTE TRUTHS

Can God meet your needs today? Consider the Truths of the following Scripture verses:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." *Matthew 7:7,8 NIV*

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:6,7 NIV*

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." *2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV*

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." *Romans 8:28 NIV*

"This I believe"

PUZZLED?

by Ken Penner

"Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see things with perfect clarity. All that is known now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now." I Corinthians 13:12 NLT

I had a friend, who has since passed away, who loved to do jigsaw puzzles. He had a number of puzzles going at the same time. The picture on the cover of the box would be near each puzzle and pieces would be scattered all over the table. Some pieces would often be set aside as ones that were especially difficult to place, possibly because of a particular shape or colour. I would hear a "Yahoo!" when one of these were placed into the puzzle, and would see a satisfied grin on his face when the puzzle was complete.

Life sometimes becomes so complex that we often do not understand at the time, how it all fits together. There are trials sent our way that don't seem to fit; they seem to be out of place. Possibly we may have an emotional problem or a physical ailment. Maybe a loved one has died and we miss them, or our income does not cover our debt. We may not understand, during our whole lifetime, why this is happening to us. It is something like the puzzle, some pieces are difficult to fit into place, the picture is somehow incomplete.

One thing we can be certain of is that God has a complete picture of why these things are happening to us and one day we will understand more clearly how these hard-to-place pieces were most essential to the maturity and completion of our lives, and the lives of others. He may be drawing us to trust in him for our salvation, or he may be causing our faith to deepen. Our part is, to in faith, trust that our heavenly Father is taking care of us and has everything under his control. He places each piece in the best possible place at the best possible time.

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or when I stand up. You know my every thought when far away. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know!" Psalm 139:1-6 NLT

This I believe!

TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S POWER

David's story reminds us of God's miracle-working power! His greatest miracle, however, is when he forgives our sin and changes our eternal destiny. Will you place your faith in Christ today? Here's what God has done for you:

GOD'S DESIRE

1

God created man to live with him for all eternity! Scripture tells us that he is our Creator, that he knows each of us by name, and that he cares intimately about us. It says in 2 Peter 3:9, that God is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* (KJV) This is God's heart! He wants you to be with him. He wants you to live with him forever. He wants you to enjoy a perfect relationship with Himself. The Bible clearly teaches that **GOD LOVES YOU!** (1 John 4:10)

MAN'S PROBLEM

2

There is one thing, however, that keeps us from this relationship with God—**OUR SIN!** Scripture teaches that *"without holiness, no one will see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12:14 NIV) In other words God's standard is perfection. There must not be one sin on our record if we are to be acceptable to God. However, Scripture tells us that *"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23 NIV). It also says that *"the wages of sin is death."* (Romans 6:23 NIV) or separation from God for all eternity! If we physically die in this condition, there are no second chances. It is too late to turn to God then.

GOD'S GIFT

3

Fortunately, this is not the end of the story. For God saw our helplessness, and in great compassion sent us what we needed most, a Savior, His one and only Son - Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that, *"(Christ) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree..."* (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sins; the punishment that brought us peace [with God] was upon him." (Isaiah 53:4,5 NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8 NIV)

MAN'S RESPONSE

4

God has made a way for us to be acceptable and right before Him. *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."* (Acts 3:19 NIV) *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* (Acts 16:31 NIV) Jesus said: *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."* (John 11:25-27 NIV)

You can be saved right now, whoever you are, whatever your situation. Confess to God that you are a sinner. Thank Jesus for taking the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross. Place your life in Christ's hands. Trust Him to forgive your sin. He alone has the power to save!

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE JUST DONE, PLEASE CONTACT A PERSON WHO YOU KNOW IS A SINCERE CHRISTIAN AND TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS! FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT STREETCORNERS IF YOU NEED TO. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AS YOU BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN!

WHO IS THIS

JESUS?

By Mike Cunningham

FOR WHAT I RECEIVED I PASSED ON TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE: THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND THAT HE APPEARED TO PETER, AND THEN TO THE TWELVE. AFTER THAT, HE APPEARED TO MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED OF THE BROTHERS AT THE SAME TIME, MOST OF WHOM ARE STILL LIVING..." 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8 NIV

I recently heard a conversation between two people who were discussing the claims of Christianity. The skeptic commented, "All I have to do is figure out what to do with this person of Jesus!"

What an important question! The answer one finds to this question has serious consequences if what the Scriptures say is really true. Was Jesus really who he claimed to be? Was he more than just a good man teaching good principles? Do I need to shut off my brain and believe that Jesus actually was the Son of God:

fully God and fully man walking on this very same earth that we travel today?

I believe that many people approach these questions with the same problem as Ken highlighted earlier with the puzzle illustration (refer to pg. 3). They take bits and pieces of Jesus life and teachings, and form their opinions around what they like and dislike. Perhaps they appreciate his identification with the poor, or his simple lifestyle. Perhaps they dislike his claims to absolute truth.

However Scripture refuses to allow Jesus to be marginalized in such a way. When one looks at all the evidence of Jesus, all the things he said and did, one is not left with any option but to humble themselves and worship Jesus as Lord.

I really appreciate 1 Cor. 15:3-8 above, as it clearly puts together the pieces of Christ's life. He lived, died, and arose from the dead. To the skeptics, Paul simply invites them to consider the testimony of the 500 brothers who saw Christ alive. He even adds that many of these witnesses were still alive to confirm what they knew to be true. Scripture is clear that the disciples who chronicled Christ's life were "eyewitnesses" of his divine power. Consider John's words in 1 John 1:1 NIV, "*that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. (Jesus)*" Imagine a detective disregarding the eyewitnesses to a mystery in favor of his "gut feeling". We can no more ignore the witnesses of history.

The disciples lived at a time when it was not fashionable to believe in Jesus. In fact all but one of them went to a martyr's death for the truth of what they proclaimed. Yes, Jesus was more than a good teacher. He claimed to be the only way to God. (John 14:6). He claimed to have the power to forgive sins and grant eternal life (John 6:47-51). He demonstrated power over sickness and death (John 11). He taught that He was one with God (John 17), and that he existed before he lived on the earth, (Luke 20:41-44). If he were not truly God in the flesh, then he would have to be crazy to say the things he said.

What will our response to Christ be today? He asks simply for our trust that He was who He claimed to be: The Son of God sent to take away the sins of the world. Will you put your trust in Christ today? His invitation to "come" still stands to all who will receive Him.



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Correspondence should be directed to:

The Editors
c/o The Streetcorner
P.O. Box 771
Telkwa, B.C. V0J 2X0

ph. (250) 846-5439
fax. (250) 846-9721
e-mail:
thestreetcorner@hotmail.com

VISIT US AT:
www.thestreetcorner.org

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God: that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.
e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.
f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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EDITORS: Ken Penner, Mike Cunningham

BIBLE STUDY: Jonathan Boone

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