



Divine love has a powerful, purifying influence. It is to be found only in renewed hearts, and naturally flows out to their fellow men.

How Much Does It Cost?

by Tanya James

Have you ever been desperately in need of a miracle? I'm talking about the kind of miracle that there was no way you would make it if God did not come through! A year and a half after moving here to Atlanta, my family and I went through a very difficult time. We took a stand for right and just like Joseph, we lost everything (our jobs, our car and our home). The enemy was angry and he waged war on us, but God orchestrated one event after another to pull us through. He sent precious people into our lives to help us get back on our feet. They listened to the voice of God and searched us out. If it was up to us we would have suffered in silence. They encouraged us to begin our ministry and have been a tremendous blessing to our family. How much money can you pay for a friend that will sacrifice for you and help bear your burdens? May you be blessed by this story.

Submitted by Tanya James, author unknown

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes.

Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!



"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little. "Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly.

"And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man "A dollar and eleven cents---the exact price of a miracle for little brothers."

He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take

me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need."

That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neuro-surgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well.

Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place.

"That surgery," her Mom whispered. "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?"

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost...one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child.

In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law!

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Family First: A Little More Time

by Marsha Peters

It was August 1999. The doctor said he didn't have long to live, and we'd better contact the family and let them know. My father was dying of complications from congestive heart failure. He had courageously been battling the disease for some years now, and his kidneys were starting to shut down-- one of the signs that the end was near.

My five siblings and I were in the ICU waiting room taking turns going in two at a time to sit with our father. He was somewhat responsive, but mostly sleeping his life away. I was anxious because my husband was out of town with his job, and I wanted him to be with me.

I had called him to let him know that Daddy was dying, and I wanted him to come home. I also wanted him to have a chance to see him again before he died. He called the office, and they told him to return home. That was a big relief for me.

Sitting in the waiting room, my mind was in turmoil. I wasn't ready for my father to



go yet. Why was God allowing him to go now? Our mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1992, and it already felt like we had lost one parent even though she was still physically there. I needed some peace of mind.

I picked up my Bible, bowed my head, and said Lord, please guide me to a text that will give my mind rest. I opened the Bible, and my eye fell on Jeremiah 32:27, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing to hard of me?" Immediately I was encouraged. I looked across the page and saw 33:3 which says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

I started to get a little excited. I decided to flip back a page, and saw 32:17 which says, "Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is *nothing* too hard for thee." I wanted to shout after reading those inspiring text.

I spent the night there at the hospital with one of my siblings, and early the next morning I rushed to my Dad's room expecting a miracle, and that is just what I found. Remember, his kidneys had started to shut down so he was not putting out much urine. When I entered the room he was sleeping peacefully, and his catheter bag was three-fourths full! That day he began to come out of the downward spiral, and God allowed him to be with us for another year and seven months.

We serve a God who still works miracles. He gave us time to prepare for our Father's death, and I love Him for that!

Quote of the Month

"Miracles have ceased.' Have they indeed? When? They had not ceased this afternoon when I walked into the woods and got into bright, miraculous sunshine, in shelter from the roaring wind."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Financial Tips: An On Time God Of Miracles

by Karla Bliss

It was March 19, 2004 and Edward Bryant was taking his wife Bernice to work. He dropped her off and sometime later she looked outside the window and noticed



that her husband was still outside in their car. Puzzled, Bernice went to her husband and asked, "Honey, why are you still here?" It was then that Edward relayed the bad news. "Bernice, the car will not go either backwards nor forwards."

The Bryants' had AAA and immediately called for roadside assistance. When the truck arrived they put the broken down car on the wrecker and Edward took the long ride to Norcross, Georgia, where their mechanic's garage was. He soon received the disappointing news that it would take two

weeks to fix the car. Edward, hoping that the mechanic was wrong decided to get another opinion and took the car to a garage on Candler Road. The news wasn't any better because he was given the same exact information- two weeks for repair of a damaged transmission. In fact the news was so bad that the mechanic in Norcross told him that he might as well run the car off of a cliff.

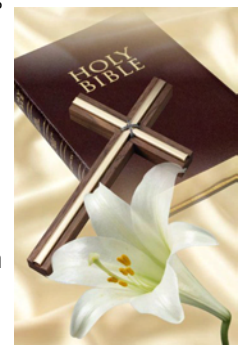
In the meantime, Bernice was interceding to God on their behalf. Faithful believers in tithing and Malachi 3:10, Bernice believed God would prove Himself. When Edward left in the wrecker Bernice began talking to her heavenly Father as she walked back to her job. "Father," she said, "I need a car by **today**, in Jesus name." But she didn't stop there, "Father I need a car that is no more than \$6,000 and no older than a 2002 model."

The odds were against them because they had just purchased a new home 3 months before from the same institution. She knew that many institutions would not approve a second

financing because of fear of inability to make the mortgage payments. But she had what some call 'crazy' faith. She then called Georgia Federal Credit Union, and Enterprise with her specifications. She called another prayer warrior Elizabeth Havior, who later dropped what she was doing, and took them to Enterprise, so they could drive the car they hoped to purchase to the CU for approval.

God blessed and in less than two hours on March 19, 2004 the Bryants drove off the lot with a 2002 model car that cost \$6,000. God continued to bless because the Bryants were supposed to pay that car off on July 10, 2008 but they paid it off on August 10, 2007.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Healthful Insight: The Shadow of Death

By Karla Bliss

Francis Burrowes had developed what he thought was a cold but was feeling increasingly worse. He was coughing and finding it hard to catch his breath. He was now at church but was feeling miserable, and after much coaxing from family and friends he returned home. The following Monday Francis went to work but didn't feel any better. His wife, Noreen, thought his work environment was responsible for his illness because he worked in a warehouse where one of the doors was left opened much of the day. He would then leave that job and go to a second job at a bakery. She thought that the combination of his exposure to the outside New Jersey air and change in climate from the cold warehouse to the warm bakery contributed to his condition.

On Wednesday Francis went to the doctor and after a thorough examination she asked him if he was a smoker. "Yes, replied Francis but I quit 26 years ago." "Well, the damage to your lungs has already been done" she said, "You have what is called Emphysema." According to lungsusa.com Emphysema is a condition in which the walls between the alveoli or air sacs within the lung lose their ability to stretch and recoil. The air sacs

become weakened and break. Elasticity of the lung tissue is lost, causing air to be trapped in the air sacs and impairing the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide (the ability to exchange air or breathe in and out.) Also, the support of the airways is lost, allowing for airflow obstruction...Cigarette smoking is by far the most common cause of emphysema and symptoms include difficulty breathing and coughing.

Francis was given prescriptions and was sent home. After arriving home from getting the medicine Francis' family noticed his continued worsening condition. He looked as if he was about to collapse. They immediately called the ambulance and watched as he started losing consciousness. "I don't think I'm going to make it," Francis said to himself as he began to collapse. When the paramedics arrived and saw what poor condition he was in, they put him on the stretcher, put him in a body bag, zipped it halfway up and took him to the hospital. The family knew the paramedics had pretty much written him off for dead. "Grandpa is dead! Grandpa is dead!" said his granddaughter Shareen.

"In a daze Noreen changed her clothes as a friend waited to take her to the hospital. "Lord, whatever your will is. I don't know what is going to happen." Upon arrival at the



hospital Noreen sat in terror as Francis heart stopped and the hospital medical team revived him. His heart stopped a total of three times and the medical team shocked his heart a total of three times.

The elders and pastor of the church came and anointed Francis and he got better. A few days later he was transferred to a regular hospital room from ICU and a few days after that he went home. His family and church thanked God for His miraculous healing power...But little did they know that Francis journey through the valley of the shadow of death was not over...

(see next month's issue for the continuation)

I Believe I'll Testify! Miracle Birth

by Mona Morant

It was spring 2003; I was an assistant teacher at an Adventist school where just about all the female teachers had had babies or were pregnant. When someone did discover that they were pregnant, the saying was "they drank the water" or "don't drink the water unless you want to have a baby." I must admit that when one of my fellow co-workers found out that she was pregnant for the THIRD time I was hurt and a little envious. I even told her so, not knowing at the time that I myself was pregnant.

I was about to turn 40 when I and my husband of four years discovered that I was pregnant with our first child together. It was a joyous occasion. We had waited for what seemed like forever. Two years before, my husband and I watched the Biblical movie, Joseph. We fell in love with him and admired his faithfulness to the Lord. We vowed that if the Lord blessed us with a child we would name him Joseph. The battle began.



Since I was turning forty my doctor referred me to a high-risk pregnancy group of doctors and immediately Satan began his attacks.

The first doctor I saw tried to discourage me from having my baby. After the ultrasound, he claimed that Joseph had cysts all over his brain and that he would not develop. He used medical terminology and statistics that I couldn't understand. Before leaving, I asked him what did he mean? He stated matter-of-factly that "He would die." Though devastated I immediately rebuked that statement in the name of Jesus. I remember walking to my car and reciting the verse, 'No weapon formed against me shall prosper'.

I drove home and told my husband, and he said that the Lord was in control and that He has the final say. I was still bothered by what the doctor said, of course, and prayed and cried and cried and prayed, that my faith would increase.

The last doctor that I saw (who was supposed to be the first, but because of scheduling couldn't be my doctor) was used by the Lord to

alleviate my fears regarding the cysts. She told me that cysts are NORMAL and the we ALL have them. During our development, they burst and keep the brain lubricated. Isn't God awesome? The enemy's next series of attacks came in the form of family members and the beloved saints. We knew immediately that our baby was a boy and began calling him by his name Joseph.

Just about everyone laughed and taunted us because of our faith. Even after the doctors confirmed that he was indeed a boy, the good old saints would call him Josephine. However, throughout my pregnancy, I vowed to be faithful to the Lord's eight laws of health, a strict vegetarian diet and trust in God. I know that God honored our faithfulness and our belief.



So, on December 15, 2003, the Lord blessed our household with a beautiful, HEALTHY 6lb-13oz baby boy named Joseph. *To God Be The Glory! Great Things He has Done!*

Holiday Feature: Easter and Lent

Easter's History

The Christian festival of Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The spring festival has its roots in the Jewish Passover, which commemorates Israel's deliverance from the bondage of Egypt, and in the Christian reinterpretation of its meaning after the crucifixion of Jesus during the Passover of AD c.30 and the proclamation of his resurrection three days later.

Early Christians observed Easter on the same day as Passover (14-15 Nisan, a date governed by a lunar calendar). In the 2d century, the Christian celebration was transferred to the Sunday following the 14-15 Nisan, if that day fell on a weekday. Originally, the Christian Easter was a unitive celebration, but in the 4th century Good Friday became a separate commemoration of the death of Christ, and Easter was thereafter devoted exclusively to the resurrection. According to the Venerable Bede, the name Easter is derived from the pagan spring festival of the Anglo- Saxon goddess Eostre, and many folk customs associated with Easter (for example, Easter eggs) are of pagan origin.



Reginald H. Fuller Bibliography: Torvend, Samuel, ed., Passage to the Paschal Feast (1993); Williams, Rowan, Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel (1994).

Lent

For Christians, Lent is a 40-day penitential period of prayer and fasting that precedes Easter. In the Western church, observance of Lent begins 6 1/2 weeks prior to Easter on Ash Wednesday; (Sundays are excluded). In the Eastern church the period extends over 7 weeks because both Saturdays and Sundays are excluded. Formerly a severe fast was prescribed: only one full meal a day was allowed, and meat, fish, eggs, and milk products were forbidden. Today, however, prayer and works of charity are emphasized. Lent has been observed since the 4th century.

Ash Wednesday

In the Western church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the seventh Wednesday before Easter. Its name comes from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of worshipers to symbolize death and sorrow for sin. In the Orthodox church, Lent begins on a Monday rather than on Ash Wednesday.

Good Friday

Good Friday is the Christian commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ, observed on the Friday before Easter. Originally, it was a day of fasting in preparation for the unitive celebration of the death-resurrection-exaltation of Jesus; no liturgy was held on that day. In the 4th century, at Jerusalem, a procession was staged from Gethsemane to the sanctuary of the cross, followed by readings about the passion. This was the beginning of the Good Friday observance as it is now known.

In the Catholic tradition, the liturgy of the day consists of reading the passion, the ceremony of the veneration of the cross, and communion from the sacrament consecrated the day before. The service of preaching on the seven last words, of Jesuit origin, has become popular in Protestantism.



Easter and Lent Trivia

Submitted by Marsha Peters

Please circle True (T) or False (F)

1. Fat Tuesday is always the day before Ash Wednesday. T F
2. Lent was originally called "Beginning of the fast". T F
3. The term "Lent " means spring. T F
4. White is the official color of Lent. T F
5. The purpose of Palm Sunday is to remember the life of Jesus Christ leading up to His resurrection. T F
6. The concept of fasting and Lent was out of respect for what Jesus had sacrificed. T F
7. Another common Lent practice is almsgiving. T F
8. The word Easter comes from the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn. T F
9. Easter is a combination of religious and pagan rituals. T F
10. Rabbits at Easter symbolize new beginnings. T F
11. The white flowers at Easter symbolize the purity and majesty of Christ. T F
12. Easter begin with Lent, a period of penitence which last for 8 days. T F
13. Ireland had what is called an "Easter Rebellion in 1916. T F
14. England has an Easter tradition of pouring or splashing water on each other. T F

Answers:
 1.T, 2.T, 3.T, 4.F, 5.T, 6.T, 7.T, 8.T, 9.T, 10.F, 11.T, 12.F, 13.T, 14.F

Safety First: Personal Safety Tips

Some of these tips may not make sense, but the point is that we can never be too careful. It is always better to be safe than sorry!

Because of recent abductions in daylight hours, refresh yourself on these 9 things to do in an emergency situation...It never hurts to be careful in this crazy world we live in.

1. The elbow is one of the strongest points on your body. If you are close enough to use it, then do so!
2. If a robber asks for your wallet and/or your purse, **DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM**. Toss it away from you. Chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or your purse than you. More than likely, he will go for the wallet/purse. **RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!**
3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. **DON'T DO THIS!**) The

predator could be watching you and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. **AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE**. If someone is in the car with a gun to your head **DO NOT DRIVE OFF!** Instead gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of it. As soon as the car crashes bail out and run. A smashed car is better than them find your body in a remote location.

5. When getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:
 - Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat.
 - If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.
 - Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger

side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out. (It is better to be paranoid than dead.)

6. **ALWAYS** take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot.
7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, **ALWAYS RUN!** The predator will only hit a running target 4 out of 100 times, and even then, it most likely **WILL NOT** be a vital organ. **RUN** zig-zag!
8. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: **STOP!** It may get you raped, or killed. *Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of many*

(continued on next page)

In Case You Didn't Know...

by Todde Bliss: excerpts taken from

National Geographic, June 19, 2007

Among nature's most unlikely animals, the platypus is known well. They swim gracefully by paddling with their front webbed feet and steering with their hind feet and beaver like tail. Platypuses hunt underwater. To prevent water from entering, folds of skin cover their eyes and ears. This is the only species known on earth that that is a mammal (warm blooded and sucks milk but it is hatched from an egg instead of being born!!!)

With it's duck bill and webbed feet, beaver tail, and otter body and fur, the animal is best described as a hodgepodge of more familiar species. They belong in a group unique only to them called "a phylogenetic misfit." Males are also poisonous. On the heels of their rear feet they have sharp stingers and can use them to deliver a strong toxic blow to any foe.

We should be just like that platypus, well known to our fellow man for being peculiar.

The bible gives us the promise that's found in 1 Peter 2:9. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

To show that we are different, we need to walk in the grace of God and to draw all people to the cross by the way we talk, walk, dress and the company that we keep. Others should visibly see how we can stand up to the challenges of life by wearing the righteousness of Christ, walking in the path which he has laid out for us that leads us home to the heavenly kingdom. God gave us His Son, who bought us with the price of his life and the shedding of his blood. You see, like the platypus we too, can deliver a strong toxic if not a deadly blow to Satan by letting go and letting God take control of our life.



Inspiration



I Believe In Miracles

A song by Carlton C. Buck

Creation shows the power of God--
There's glory all around,
And those who see must stand in awe
For miracles abound.

I cannot doubt the work of God.
It's plain for all to see;
The miracles that He has wrought
Should lead to Calvary.

The love of God! O power divine!
'Tis wonderful to see
The miracle of grace performed
Within the heart of me.

I believe in miracles
I've seen a soul set free,
Miraculous the change in one
redeemed through Calvary;
I've seen the lily push it's way up
through the stubborn sod--
I believe in miracles
For I believe in God!

Safety First, *Continued*

unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.



9. A woman reported that she heard the sound of a crying baby on her porch. The police told her, "Whatever you do, **DO NOT open the door.**" She also said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window. The policeman told her, "We already

have a unit on the way. Whatever you do, **DO NOT open the door.**" He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby. He said they have not verified it, but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.

This should be taken seriously because it's been said that the Crying Baby theory was mentioned on America's Most Wanted when they profiled a serial killer in Louisiana.

In the News: Husband is big on billboards

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 07/11/07*

If your spouse recovered from a "death coma" and you were convinced it was a miracle, what would you do?

Would you be diligent in making it to church on Sundays? Put an extra few bucks in the collection plate? Or would you put up massive billboards with your spouse's picture on some of Atlanta's most traveled highways?

Drive either direction on Ga. 92 in Woodstock, drive south from Cherokee County on I-75 or head north up I-85 and you're likely to see the billboards with Patsy Tripodo smiling down on you.

"Jesus healed my wife: Patsysmiracle.com." Ron Tripodo said, "I put them up as a way to say thank you to God for healing my wife," said Tripodo, a born-again Christian and a member of Cobb Vineyard Church who lives in east Cobb County.

Patsy Tripodo, 58, about 18 months ago suffered the onset of a rare virus that attacks the brain. Herpes simplex encephalitis, which hits about 9,000 people a year in the United States, usually leads to a high fever, seizures, brain lesions — and often death. Neither the Tripodos nor her doctors know how she contracted the virus, which can enter the central nervous system



Ron had the first billboard go up a year ago even though doctors were saying a full recovery was almost out of the question.

"What if it doesn't pan out?" Ron was asked by friends. "Don't you want to wait a little while?" Nope.

Count family friend Lisa Ragsdale as one who didn't have quite the faith that Ron did. "I feel most of us were thinking, 'What doesn't he see?'" Ragsdale said. "I saw how crippled and hopeless it was when I saw her at Duke. But Ron's faith was one that went beyond what he saw."

Kaelin sees no reason to think that Patsy will relapse. He just has a hard time saying exactly what healed her. "...I will say this: **Ron's faith that Patsy was going to be healed never wavered.** And now, medically speaking, I see no reason to suspect Patsy's condition will worsen again."

Neither does Ron.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for this ministry. Renewed Hearts, Inc. is a 501(c)3 self-supported, non-profit organization. If you have a request, please email us at:

prayers@renewedheartsinc.org.

Please pray for the following individuals:

- TB - unity in the family
- JC and CC - newly married
- FB - healing from unknown illness

Also, please pray for:

- Our families
- Our Churches and our Pastors
- The Youth - obedience to God's word
- A grant writer & facility for this ministry

If you would like to support this ministry, please send all donations to:

**Renewed Hearts, Inc.,
P.O. Box 5474, Atlanta, GA 31107**

Renewed Hearts, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Check out our website!

www.renewedheartsinc.org

If you would like to submit an article, a poem, or share a testimony, email us at:

heartbeat@renewedheartsinc.org.

All articles are subject to editing and may not be included in the current issue. However, it may be included in a later issue.

The News Crew

**Gary James, Tanya James, Derek Peters,
Marsha Peters, Todde Bliss, Karla Bliss**



**The Heart Beat
Renewed Hearts, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5474, Atlanta, GA 31107

www.renewedheartsinc.org

heartbeat@renewedheartsinc.org