

A Call to Witness

By Anne Chapman

Those of you who read the prayer list in the weekly church bulletin have been seeing the following entry: Jim Schnase, newly-injured back. As of this writing, it is being taken off. Oh yes, another one of God's miracles occurred.

The term "injured back," was an understatement. In fact, it turned out to be a "broken" back. It happened in his little yard when he took a few steps backwards, stepped on a tall, stiff weed and landed flat on his back. It was not a paralyzing break, but things were not good at all – doctors, x-rays, pain patches, pills, etc. followed. He could barely get around, having to hang onto furniture and lean on walls. He had been going to physical therapy to strengthen his legs and to abandon the walker and cane, and now could not continue with the treatment. Weakness and further instability set in. The church's Prayer Team and others became involved. All of a sudden, he realized the pain was completely gone and he could move around just fine. He went back to the doctor and was cleared to resume physical therapy. They were all in awe and none of them could give a medical explanation. However, We all know Who did it!

Because God's ways are higher than ours and we will never know His mind, we cannot explain why He sometimes elects to bring healing and other times He doesn't. It is not our job to second-guess Him. We do know, however, that intercessory prayer is very powerful and if we ask and it is in His will, the answer will be yes. If we don't ask – well ?? He already knows what we need and what is best for us. He also made us to have a personal relationship with Him. With that comes communication with the Lord who created us. Mayhew CBC has seen many healings and resolutions of life's situations by fervent prayer.

Jim is Pastor Mike's Dad. He is also known as Daddy Jim, Papa Great and Grandpa Great, and has a remarkable story. He grew up as a Christian, but somewhere along life's path, he fell away. Many decades later while still living in Salem, Oregon, he went into kidney failure and also needed a 3-way heart bypass. It looked like his time on earth may be up, but after surviving these two events, Pastor Mike brought him to Sacramento to nurture him back to health.

It wasn't just physical health that he needed, but spiritual health as well. We all know how great this church is at "adopting" people, and that's just what happened. Soon he was in the choir, helping at AWANA, attending Casa Coloma sing-along, being a member of the Prayer Team, attending and helping with other functions at the church, and reading his Bible every day. Yet, of all those things, the most important is being a Witness to the healing power of Jesus.

His kidneys were so bad, the doctor said one more decline and he'd be on dialysis. Prayer continued. Unlike a heart and some other organs, kidneys "cannot get better," only worse or stay the same. The doctor strongly emphasized that. You can only imagine the doctor's astonishment when the following test showed a marked improvement! "How Can that Happen?" the doctor asked Jim! Jim told him about the church's prayers and Jesus. There was no response. Many months and some years have passed now, and with each visit the doctor says more improvement can be seen and "How Can that Happen?"

There is also the matter of his heart, which was functioning at only about 25%. That's serious. More prayer. Sometime later and following another Doppler exam, he was sitting in the cardiologist's office

waiting for the results. She came in, stared at him and said she saw what happened with his kidneys, but wait, she wanted to go back out and double check something before talking to him about his heart. What was all that about? When she came back, she said she'd wanted to be sure she had the right patient and test, because his heart function showed an improvement of 100% and was now at the low end of Normal, or 50% function. Heart muscles can improve, but that amount over a short period of time – How can that happen? (See article "It's not about Me.")i

There have been other things as well. Jim tells anyone who will listen about the power of Jesus. No one has ever turned him away. Maybe it's a special purpose God has given him in his latter days, and he certainly is fulfilling this mission.

Here, I want to divert for a moment to a time years ago in AWANA. Trinity Kennedy had just become a little Sparky. One night during lesson time he looked at me with his big, inquisitive eyes and asked, "What does God do all day?" How many of you would like to answer "that" question? (From a 5-year old, a 20-year old, a 40-year old or a 90-year old !!) Years later, I understand there is a single word to answer this question. LOVE. All else follows from there.

Wherever we are in life, miracles follow us. Sometimes it's just a matter of recognizing them. They don't have to be similar to anyone else's. They come in all forms. A great way to tell someone about Jesus is to relate such a personal experience. It may be the very thing that leads them to the cross and everlasting life.

Submitted by Anne Chapman