

Carrie's Story

After living with **debilitating pain for over 1 year, I was miraculously and totally healed.** Now I really feel like my life has been given back to me, and I am experiencing a depth of living that I have never known before. Do you want to know what happened?

I am an optimistic and energetic mother of two children, and I have been blessed with a supportive and wonderful husband. For the past 22 years, I have worked at several capacities with the Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services. I am now a manager. I have a passion for personal training and enjoy helping clients to get strong. I have been a Christian for most of my life, but I have never really had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In Oct 2010, my children were getting ready for school and found me unconscious in my bed. I was taken to the hospital where it was determined that **I needed emergency brain surgery;** they were not very hopeful about my situation. . I was diagnosed with a Cavernous Malformation.

The 5 hour surgery went well. There were concerns that my speech would be affected, but Praise God, I awoke the next day talking and quite alert. After 5 days I was released and allowed to return to my children and home. I was so grateful for the prayers of my family, friends and co-workers.

My recuperation went well. I was under the care of a neurologist in Toronto and just after a few weeks, life seemed pretty normal and I wanted to return back to work. I argued with one of my doctors, because as a manager of a Probation Office, I had a lot of work to do. I really don't think it registered with me just how serious my surgery had been. It's possible that I was in denial. I mean, I could walk, talk, ride my bike and I had no pain. **My own willful pride stubbornly refused to acknowledge that someone as strong, as fit and as healthy as I was could be so vulnerable to succumb to brain surgery.**

A year after the surgery my family prepared a celebration for me for surviving the surgery and doing so well. That's when it really hit me. I really had emergency brain surgery! I had to go and seek additional counselling to deal with that.

In January 2012, I began to experience some severe pain in my head near the surgery site. By the end of the week the pain increased to a degree that it stopped me from standing or sitting upright. I had to lay on my bed, flat without a pillow. The room had to be dark as light made the pain in my head worse. By February, I found that sound — any noise also made the pain worse and I had to start wearing earplugs all the time.

I contacted all of my doctors to find help, but every test (MRI's, CT-Scan's, Lumbar puncture) and many other tests showed that my brain was fine, so what was causing this pain ? I felt that it was just a temporary set back, because I had been doing so well. But no, the pain just grew worse and worse. Lifting myself up from lying down was excruciating, and walking or standing was extremely painful. Sometimes my pain medication (Tylenol 3, Percocet) had no effect at all. I also could not lift or carry anything and I ended up bed-ridden for a few months.

I was devastated, because no cause for my pain could be found. On a particularly bad day I penned these words in my journal:

Ordinary days... How how I yearn for one. We take them so for granted. Until we no longer have them. Daily we rise and walk, drive, sit up, stand, listen to music, come and go, get out of bed without pain, make a cup of tea, go for a walk enjoy a day with out pain, ordinary things.... these ordinary things are miraculous events for those who have lost these abilities. These are gifts from God that we take for granted. Oh,...how I yearn for an ordinary day....

The only thing I could do was cry out to God. I wanted to know where He was and why He wasn't doing anything about my pain. I didn't want to read the Bible...it seemed too overwhelming to me at the time as I needed immediate answers. My mother-in law gave me a Christian book on HOPE - which told me to '**continue to believe regardless of what or how I feel.**' The Book was a great help to me. It really gave me hope.

I began reading my bible. One day I read this: "Oh Lord you searched me and you know me" (Psalm 139:1). I thought - "What!... Is that true?" I was overwhelmed and felt great comfort from that. Then I read the next verse, "you know when I sit and when I rise, you understand me from a far off." This really made me mad!! If God knew me like he said, and knew when I rise, He must know how much pain I was in. I felt abandoned by Him for a while, but I continued to read. I came to realize after a while that God really does know me and I was drawn back to the bible to find out more answers.

I soon came to realize that He was my only answer, as my doctors were still searching for reasons for my inability to function with out severe pain. To this day, they have no real answers. On somedays, when I couldn't read because of pain, I would simply spend time talking to Him. I really began to feel loved, even though I was still in pain. Our relationship was different now because I truly came to understand that He really loved me. I didn't just know about his Love, we developed a relationship and it became very real to me.

I learned to depend on God and was very grateful when I could sit up without pain. Even though I still couldn't walk or stand without pain, I was thankful when they gave me a walker to get around. By Sept 2012, I had been suffering for 9 months and desperately wanted to be well. I continued to callout to God asking for healing. I came to realize that I needed to have faith, but sadly I didn't really know what that was. As a woman who had always been strong, it was humbling to have to be so weak, so dependent and fragile and I came to realize at that time that whether you are well or you are sick, strength in our own selves is an illusion. We can't give ourselves an extra breath to save our lives. Think about it. The only true strength come from God through Jesus Christ. Without Him, we really cant do anything (John 15:5).

By December 2012, I saw some improvements, but I still felt pain when I stood and tried to walked and noise continued to bother me. It seemed like there was no medical solution, but God says when we are weak, He is strong (2 Cor 12:10) and He was about to prove it!!

On January 27, 2013, 1 year and 3 weeks after my pain started, my mom invited me to a healing service at her church(Toronto International Celebration Church) TICC. I went. Pastor Peter preached the message of the Gospel. I really believed that the Jesus I had come to know over the last 12 months was going to do some thing for me. As you can imagine, after so long with this excruciating pain, I was desperate for healing. I went to the service with hungry expectation. I wondered how I was going to manage in the church with all the noise. But, noise or no noise, I went in Faith. I knew I would leave differently.

Because of the noise from the worship and the preaching, I could not sit inside the church, I had to sit outside. During the healing service, when Pastor Peter said "someone is being healed of chronic pain....". In my heart, I said that's me!!! Yet, a voice of doubt in my head said "how are you going to go into the church with all that noise?" I ignored it and stood up by faith, not considering my pain and walked right into my healing. I continued walking all the way to the front and realized I felt no pain. I was overwhelmed when I took my ear plugs out in the noise and worship!!! Jesus healed me instantly!!!! I'm living proof of God's amazing grace and favour.

Sometimes we don't see the storms of life pass as quickly as we want, but that doesn't mean God is not working. Sometimes we just need to get to the end of our selves, before we truly are ready to fully trust Him and lean on Him. I'm back in the gym and I can't tell you how exhilarating it is to overcome !!

Why am I sharing all of this with you? Because we all have needs. Everyone of us has 'storms' in our life and we often feel as if there is no hope, but Ephesians 6:10 says "*In conclusion, be strong in the Lord, [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].*" (Amp).

I've come to realize that no matter how strong or capable we think we are, by ourselves, we are no match for our storms. BUT it's not hopeless because **God is the Answer**. He has done this for me and he says he doesn't have favourites; He will do it for you too!

See my healing video on Youtube: youtube - " Carrie"s story Peter". It's Amazing ! car.john4o@yahoo.ca

