



Personal Testimony of Mary Mayko

“FROM DEATH TO LIFE”

Mary Mayko’s miracle of how God brought me back from death to life both physically and spiritually during the time from Sept. 1975 to my true salvation in April 1976.

Ps.40:1-5 LB “I waited patiently for God to help me; then he listened to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the bog and out of the mire, and set my feet on a hard firm path and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, of praises to our God. Now many will hear of the glorious things he did for me, and will stand in awe before the Lord, and put their trust in Him. Many blessings are given to those who trust in the Lord, and have no confidence in those who are proud, or who trust in idols. O Lord my God, many and many a time you have done great miracles for us and we are ever in your thoughts. Who else can do such glorious things? No one else can be compared to you. There isn’t time to tell of all your wonderful deeds.”

I was known as a *pew baby*, meaning as soon as my Mother could get back in church after my birth, I was there with her! I was raised in a Christian home where both parents were active in church ministries. From my birth until about the age of 20, church was the main activity in my family. Our social life was fellowship with other Believers and was never dull! Even our playtime included playing church as we sing and “preached”, even as small children!

Having grown up in such a godly home, it makes one wonder why a child would turn away from the Lord, but in my twenties, I did. God is faithful to the prayers of the saints though, and as my family prayed without ceasing

for me, it really made it hard for me to enjoy sinful activities! No need to go into detail in that regard, for sin is sin, no matter what category people try to put it in!

I had developed an allergy to insect stings, having been stung several times in both in my childhood and adult life. At my place of employment in September 1975 a yellow jacket stung me. As a result, I was sent to the hospital in anaphylactic shock. I had a near death experience as my chest heaved with excruciating pain. Two nurses entered my room just as I felt my inner spirit being drawn out from my feet, fingers and the top of my head through my chest! As I exited my body, I floated to the top of the room. I watched as the nurses were working on me, and I saw my heart monitor go flat line on the screen! Suddenly I felt very light and totally free from any pain or heaviness! I tried to yell at the nurses to let me alone, but it seems as I was in a different dimension and they could not hear me! One nurse said to the other one, "Get the Doctor, we lost her!" From that time to some weeks later, I remained in a coma.

One day I was suddenly aware of voices in the room, but I could not open my eyes or move or speak! I heard the Doctor telling my family to make two kinds of arrangements for me. The first one would be with a Nursing Home, as the Doctor said *if I survived* I would be a vegetable! The second choice was which Funeral Home I would be sent to, as the doctor did not expect me to live much longer! I thought to myself, "How could this be happening to me?" Inside I started screaming at everyone, "No! You aren't going to do either one of those things to me!" The trouble was no one could hear me as I was unable to speak and paralyzed and unable to signal physically!

I am not sure how long after that incident I "woke up". The nurse came into my room and I said to her, "I need a shower, my hair is dirty!" She screamed and dropped whatever she had in her hand and dashed out the door! Within moments several doctors were in my room asking me questions and sticking my body with pins! (I still had no feeling in my body at that time!)

From that day onward I made steady improvements and soon was in physical therapy learning how to walk again. I had extensive nerve damage all through my body. I also had brain damage and memory loss in some areas. I recognized faces but could not identify all of them. Finally later in 1975 I was released from the hospital but was to continue my P.T.

In Jan of 1976 I had a seizure and could not move or speak. I was back in the hospital again, but soon revived from that experience. (Good thing I had a praying family who sent out a desperate appeal to their churches and friends! They had people all over America praying for me before any of us had computers or emails!) After I got out of the hospital again I began to

drift in and out of a deep depression. My brother Dan was living with me by that time and took me to church with him. I felt good about going but made no real move toward the LORD. My Dad became quite ill so Dan moved back to Mo. to be with him and my Mother. Now completely alone and feeling helpless and hopeless, Satan put thoughts of taking my life in my mind!

One evening in March of 1976 I was so despondent I decided to take all my pills and end my suffering! While I lay on the sofa trying to get enough courage to do this, I remembered a story Dan told me of a spiritual attack he went through and how he grabbed his Bible and put it on his face, receiving immediate victory from the LORD! My own Bible was always on the coffee table, though I had not read for a long time. I thought if I can only reach it, perhaps my own attack would lift! For some reason I felt "pinned down" to the sofa and could not even touch my Bible! I cried out "Jesus!" and suddenly felt very calm and no longer pinned down. I thought about what I had almost done and began to cry. My Dad had heart problems and if I had taken my own life. It would have killed him also!

The next day I had a phone call from my sister Lorene in Moses Lake Wash. She told me not to *do anything foolish!* How could she have known what I almost did the night before? She made arrangements for me to visit her for a couple of weeks. I wasn't sure I could as I was still crippled and full of pain from the nerve damage, but I did go! While there I attended the Moses lake Assembly of God church with them. Everyone there seemed so excited to meet me as they had been praying for miracles for me from the beginning of my injuries!

The next Sunday when I went to church with Lorene and her family, I went from spiritual death unto spiritual life! Pastor Gordon Welk preached that morning but I only heard what he said at the end of the sermon. "If you need a healing, please come to the altar and we will anoint you with oil and pray over you!" I rose without hesitation and started for the altar. On the way I felt sudden shame! I thought to myself, "You've got a lot of nerve! You don't even live for the LORD, yet you want Him to heal you!" Even though it was a struggle to continue on, I felt too embarrassed to turn back so went all the way down to the altar! As I knelt there I felt the Presence of God's love flowing over me and finally knew He accepted me just as I was! As I received my salvation and assurance that day in April 1976, I was so thankful, it didn't matter any longer if I got a physical healing or not!

The next morning I awoke and was able to swing my legs over the bed without a struggle or any of the pain I'd had for six months! I was simply amazed! I put my coat on and went for a walk, and then I started running! Glory be! I had no crippling symptoms to hold me back! I ran all the way around the block and my sister Lorene met me at her door with tears

streaming down her cheeks! “You got your miracle from the LORD, didn’t you?!” She shouted as we embraced each other crying and praising the LORD!

**My struggles were not finished as I still had so many things to overcome, but God gave me a new beginning with His wisdom and strength to help me and encourage me through the many difficulties I would have to face. I am astonished at what the LORD has done for me since this new life with Christ began! Of course, that is another testimony for another time!
~ Mary Mayko**