



Our Living Miracle



(The paragraphs in italics are the text messages sent out by Linda Stalley)

Sunday, 1st October 2006 will be embedded in our lives forever – the day when our daughter, Yvonne, suffered extremely severe head injuries in a horse riding accident and we did not know whether she would live or die.

Having just returned from a brief outing, Leo and I were settling down with a coffee to watch Manchester United play Newcastle on the television when the phone rang. At first I did not recognise the voice, which said, “Linda, Yvonne is in an ambulance and being taken to Trafford General” and then the phone went dead. I realised that it was Yvonne’s friend and rang back asking, “What has happened?” Apparently Yvonne had mounted the horse without a hat and something spooked the horse, which ran off with Yvonne on it. She had then tried to turn the horse at a major road junction but because of the rain the horse slipped on the tarmac and Yvonne was thrown off hitting her head on the road.

Adrenaline stepped in and shaking with worry we made our way to the hospital, where we were met by a nurse who I followed to the emergency treatment room. When she opened the door I could see Yvonne in the far corner with several medical staff in attendance – the situation did not look good. Leading us to the relatives’ room, the nurse informed us that the doctor would see us shortly as Yvonne was to be taken for a scan. It seemed like an eternity until the doctor came and informed us that Yvonne’s injuries were extremely serious and life threatening and they would have to transfer her to Hope Hospital in Salford which specialised in head injuries – Yvonne had been allocated the last available bed on Intensive Care. In between the tears and distress, common sense took over and relatives, friends and work colleagues were made aware of our dilemma. One after another they arrived to support us in our hour of need. I rang Linda Stalley and asked her to pray for Yvonne, and later with Dennis, she arrived at the hospital. That’s when the coincidences & links began - the ambulance man who had brought Yvonne to Trafford General was a Maranatha member (Paul Guest) and when we eventually saw Yvonne on the stretcher before leaving for Hope Hospital, I thanked Paul for looking after her and with Linda & Dennis prayed for Jesus to look after our precious daughter’s life.

Sunday, 1st October - Linda Corrigan’s daughter, Yvonne, has fallen off a horse and sustained a serious head injury. She is being rushed to Trafford General (1600 hrs), ventilated. **17:30hrs** – brain scan has shown that Yvonne has fractured the base of her skull, brain is very swollen and part of her brain is protruding through her ear. Doctors don’t think she will survive.

Several hours after arriving at Hope Hospital we had it confirmed that Yvonne had suffered a basal skull fracture and terrible bruising to both her temporal lobes. The next three or four days would be critical due to swelling which occurs with these types of injuries resulting in pressure on the brain.

‘First Sunday’ was being held that night and Dennis asked the congregation to pray for Yvonne, asking those who were doctors to come forward and pray using their knowledge. Seven doctors were present that evening, one of whom was Hans-Christian who said he had a vision of angels around Yvonne’s head repairing the injury. Several other people had visions of angels. This Sunday was the Church feast of all angels!!

Our lives would never be the same – and our emotional journey had only just begun. We did not want to leave her side and spent the first night huddled on a sofa in the relatives’ room. The following morning the ICU staff suggested that we go home and rest, because it was going to be a long haul. We returned to the hospital at 1pm on Monday 2nd October and from then on Leo and I spent nine hours a day at Yvonne’s bedside, holding her hand, stroking her head and talking to her, proclaiming our undying love for her and more importantly praying for her survival. Then we would come home eat a little food, make phone calls to relatives & friends, cry a lot, talk about how she could be permanently damaged and then catch a little sleep. There was so much to think about.

Monday, 2nd – 09:45 – Yvonne will be sedated and ventilated for next three days awaiting stabilisation of condition. Special prayers please for reduction in swelling and pressure in brain. **19:30** – the pressure inside her skull, due to swelling of her brain has increased from 2 to 14 (OK up to 20). Please continue to pray for reduction. Good news, no other injuries.

For the first few days Yvonne remained in a stable but serious condition, then she contracted an infection resulting in a high temperature which increased the pressure on her brain and, due to the drugs and bodily fluids, other parts of her body were badly swollen. Leo and I were taken aside by the consultant and informed that Yvonne was on the highest dosage of medication, their backs were against the wall – they could not operate because removing some of the damaged brain would result in more swelling and to remove both temporal lobes was not an option. Other probes were going to be inserted into her head to monitor the pressure more closely. We just looked at one another, held hands and cried. What were we going to do?

I spoke with Linda S, told her the position and she spread the news throughout the prayer chain, which had been set up - thousands of people in England, Uganda, America, Spain, Australia, Ireland prayed asking the Lord to completely heal Yvonne and take authority over the situation. .

Tuesday, 3rd – 11:00 – Hospital say she is stable. Please keep praying for reduction in swelling and pressure. Pray for Linda (mum), very broken.

To our amazement the angels were to become significant – because unaware of what had happened at the ‘First Sunday’ meeting - two of our friends arrived at the hospital with prayers from angels, a small glass statue of an angel and an angel brooch. These were placed above Yvonne’s head on the machine in ICU. One said “I believe in angels and I just had to get this to Yvonne as quickly as possible”.

Wednesday, 4th – 10:00 – Yvonne’s sedation being reduced. Starting to move. Pray for breathing. “Father God, we stand firm in faith. We take on to believe for the healing of Yvonne. We boldly pray that the damage sustained will be held in the palm of Jesus. Lord give the faith to believe as all the prayers of the people are poured into the cells that have been accosted. We pray this in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit” (prayer from USA). **15:30** – pressure in Yvonne’s brain increasing. Going for a scan now. **20:45** – Yvonne’s brain scan showing signs of improvement though pressure still hi. She has developed a temperature. Pray for identification of source, cleansing of infection and reduction in pressure.



Thursday, 5th – 14:15 - Yvonne’s temperature up again. Waiting for results before treating infection. Brain pressure still increasing now 30 (safe is 20). Sedation increased. Linda & Leo struggling. Grateful for prayers. **16:45** Linda Stalley praying over Yvonne. Please pray for her and alongside her at this time, that she might be anointed and be able to pray with authority.

Linda Stalley came to the hospital and prayed privately with Yvonne. Amazingly, within 24 hours Yvonne was showing signs of improvement – her temperature dropped and the pressure on her brain subsided

19:30 – Re prayer over Yvonne; good insights. Aware of everyone’s prayer. Better idea how to pray. **19:50** – Bad bruising and swelling both sides of brain, needed three times normal sedation and extra drug to control pressure. High temperature. Pray for surrender of Yvonne’s independent spirit and pray authority over resistance/life denial.

Friday, 6th – 15:15 – Yvonne’s head pressure down last night. Praise God. Antibiotic started, temperature better but still up. Left arm very swollen and skin broken. Pray Yvonne will receive God’s love, life and healing in her spirit.

Saturday, 7th – GOOD NEWS!! Head pressure normal since Thursday night. Doctors surprised!! Sedation halved yesterday without problems. Temperature fluctuating and sores on left arm. Please keep praying for full healing for Yvonne and all family.

After being stable for 48 hours the decision was taken on Sunday 8th October to lessen the medication, which was keeping her asleep, and the doctors warned us that it might be 36-72 hours before we would see any signs of Yvonne waking up.

Sunday, 8th – Yvonne had stable night. Temperature down, waiting for sedation to wear off (72 hrs) and for her to wake up. Keep up prayer of authority for breathing and complete healing. Mum & dad exhausted.

Monday, 9th – Yvonne now assisted breathing via tracheostomy. No sedation, not conscious yet. Head pressure normal. Temperature still up yesterday – urine infection. Keep praying with authority of Body of Christ for full healing.

About 36 hours later the first sign that the ‘awakening’ had begun was when she tightened her fingers around her dad’s and mine. Secondly, she yawned when one of the netball team girls visited her. Thirdly, she opened her eyes and looked around, checking out all the sounds of the ICU equipment. One thing that seemed to annoy her was the beeping caused by the blood pressure monitor and she tried constantly to remove the clip-on probe from her big toe. When we talked to her she would squeeze our hands, move her head to the side where the voice was coming from and smile. One afternoon, four ladies walked down the ward in stiletto heels, which sounded as if a herd of horses were running through the ward. Yvonne actually snarled and gritted her teeth together as if to say ‘be quiet’.

Tuesday, 10th – Yvonne is waking up!! Starting to open eyes and yawn. Moving head, tongue, right arm. Still assisted breathing. Coughing a lot. Pray for freedom of breathing and resurrection in body, mind and spirit.

With each passing day Yvonne woke up a little bit more – moving her arms, legs and head, she was even mouthing words – when her dad said he loved her she tried to say ‘I love you’. What a wondrous thing. Daily we were still experiencing the emotional rollercoaster – nervousness, happiness, anxiousness, tiredness, & sadness and crying buckets of tears.

Wednesday, 11th - Praise God! Yvonne moving all limbs, pulled feeding tube out and BP monitor off. Blowing kisses. Trying to speak and interact. Breathing herself through tracheostomy. Refused physio! Keep up praising. **22:30** – Yvonne much the same today. Hands bandaged as trying to pull out lines. Chest & arm slightly better. Linda & Leo very tired and apprehensive. Please keep up all prayer. Our Father God is faithful.

Gradually, Yvonne was disconnected from the monitors, drips were taken down and she began to look more like herself even though she had definitely lost a lot of weight. To enable her body to absorb a high protein liquid food a feeding tube was put down her nose to

her stomach. Yvonne being Yvonne did not like the feel of this tube and therefore found a way of removing it only a few hours after it had been inserted. (A sign of determination, maybe!).

During all this time the staff on ICU were marvellous – their dedication to Yvonne's care was paramount and we thank God for giving them these skills and knowledge. Surprisingly, some of the ICU staff linked into Yvonne in various ways – one lived on the road where the accident happened and had horses, another went to her old school and another was a relative of someone Yvonne worked with. Above all, Yvonne, because of her job with BUPA, knew about her consultant – he was apparently the 'top man'.

Due to a shortage of beds in ICU, Yvonne was transferred to High Dependency Unit on or about 12th October and put in a side ward. The visiting hours were cut down and we were going to see a little less of her which upset us. Large numbers of family, friends and work colleagues continued to visit Yvonne and support us in our hours of need and so a visiting rota had to be set up. Yet another angel arrived via one of my friends – again she did not know about what happened at 'First Sunday'.

Thursday, 12th – 17:50 – praise God! Dr. described Yvonne's progress as bl---y marvellous. To be moved out of ICU to HDU. Mouthed "I love you" to her dad. Pray for MRSA to be cleared from nose and for cleansing of all urine and wounds.

As she became more aware of what was going on around her she took great pleasure in waggling the clip-on blood-pressure monitor from her toe, and even when the nurse actually taped it back on Yvonne persisted with its removal, which meant the alarm sounded on the monitoring equipment. In the end the nurse gave up and said she would only use the 'clip-on' when she needed a reading. Now with a tracheostomy and still being slightly disorientated from the drugs, Yvonne had to have her hands bandaged at night so that she could not pull at the tubes. Did this stop her? – NO! She managed to pull the bandages off with her teeth and pulled the feeding tube out of her nose four times and tried to remove the tracheostomy tube. Because the doctors wanted her to gain some weight the feeding tube was finally inserted directly into her stomach.

Friday, 13th – Yvonne doing very well. Getting frustrated – unable to speak due to tracheostomy. No food input – will not tolerate feeding and uncooperative with nurses. Showing good signs of brain function. Pray for peace.

Every day we saw an improvement – the nurses were concerned over her matted hair which is shoulder length, but with gentle brushing this was disentangled, washed and conditioned; Yvonne was attempting to sit up, trying to get out of bed, would hug us goodnight and cry because we were leaving her. (As a small child I had promised her that I would never leave her if she ever went into hospital – this was heart-wrenching for me). Each time we had to reassure her that we would be back the next day.

We gave her a notebook and pen and she attempted to write how she felt and as soon as she was weaned off the breathing aid, Yvonne began to talk, but very quietly.

Sunday, 15th – Nurse found Yvonne kneeling on bed yesterday. Communicating using alphabet board. Pray for swallowing test tomorrow to see if safe to have drink/food. Pray for God's pace of progress in activity.

After just over a week in HDU, the physiotherapists got Yvonne on her feet – a sight we thought we would never see again. We were so proud of Yvonne – what a fighter and an answer to prayer. Needless to say, tears of joy flowed. Three days later Yvonne was transferred to the general neuro-surgical ward to monitor her progress.

Monday, 16th – 10:20 – AWESOME GOD! There is no holding Yvonne back. Yesterday managed to write message, watched DVD and worked controls, then cleaned her teeth. Pray for successful swallowing test today and increased mobility.

Tuesday, 17th - WOW! Yvonne walked today. Couldn't swallow yesterday, has peg feeding tube in tummy. Tracheostomy out, talking. Pray for swallowing reflex to return, continued healing of brain and mind, for grace and patience.

Wednesday, 18th – MORE WOW!! Yvonne walking and exploring (supervised). Started eating and drinking, speech variable. Identifying letters and numbers. Probably moving her to Rehab Ward tomorrow. Pray for restoration of speech and writing.

Once the high protein food kicked in, Yvonne's appetite returned, although she did have to remind staff several times that she was a 'veggie'. Her voice was still fairly quiet, but she never stopped asking 'When can I go home?' She could not grasp why she was actually in hospital because she had no recollection of the accident. Yvonne thought that there had been a car accident, she had killed someone and was being punished by her stay in Hope Hospital.

Friday, 20th – Yvonne very emotional today. Upset, no memory of why in hospital, but some long-term memory. Able to read time on clock, speaking a little more. Parents distressed, pray for continued healing and peace.

Saturday 21st – Yvonne bit better today. Memory improving. Praise God. Asking to go home, on waiting list for Rehab. Pray for speedy acceptance for rehab. Keep praying for memory and emotional healing.

Tuesday, 24th – Yvonne walking and talking normally. Able to eat, but poor appetite. Feeding tube out soon. Memory improving, very bored. Wants to go home. Pray for stimulation and quick move to rehab & for Linda and Leo, tired and low.

Wednesday, 25th – Yvonne has decided she is going home Saturday! Craving for drink and cig. Pray for deep healing of emotions and memory, restoration of awareness and understanding, renewing of her mind and peace in spirit.

Thursday, 26th - Yvonne had questionnaire assessment yesterday, mostly right answers with good writing and spelling. Some problems finding words when speaking. Pray for insight and full healing of memory. Also for cleansing of ear infection.

26th October proved to be a joyous day – Yvonne was allowed home for a few hours to celebrate her dad's birthday and she had two helpings of a Chinese meal. The following Saturday she was home for the afternoon. The next weekend saw her at home for an

overnight stay. Amazing progress had been made and the only thing stopping her discharge from hospital was the removal of the feeding tube, which was becoming a frustration for her.

Friday, 27th – Yvonne went home for 4 hours yesterday evening. It was her dad's 50th birthday. What a wonderful God we have. Climbed stairs and sending texts, wants to drive and go back to work & pub. Seeing speech and occupational therapist. Praise God. Going to ENT this morning - ear infection. Continue to pray for renewing of mind, stability and God's pace in all things.

Saturday, 28th – Yvonne continuing to race along path of healing. ENT happy with ear, drum OK. Home for 6 hours this afternoon. Although not on Rehab ward getting all input. Praise God – keep praying for mind.

Monday, 30th – Yvonne had more time at home over weekend. Tires easily. Poor sleep on ward, then gets light-headed. Brighter yesterday and some improvement in memory. Parents very tired. Pray for deepening of healing.

Tuesday, 31st – Yvonne recited her credit card number, expiry date and security yesterday, but can't remember what her job is. Pray for emotional stability and insight, for memory and for feeding tube to be removed a.s.a.p (eating well).

Thursday, 2nd November – Good progress every day. Gradual improvement in memory. Made tea, beans on toast for assessment. Tires easily and light-headed. Waiting for feeding tube to be taken out. Pray for stability of mind.

Friday, 3rd – PRAISE GOD Yvonne home overnight Saturday planned. Discharge next week. No need for physio/speech therapy. Occupational therapist pleased with progress. Insight and memory improving. Daily updates finished.

7th November – Praise God! Yvonne being discharged from hospital tomorrow. Needs further assessment for memory and mental function. Please continue to pray for complete healing and for Linda & Leo, both off work..

Alleluia – 8th November– discharge day could not come quick enough for Yvonne – 5 ½ weeks after the accident, another milestone had been reached.

Each day after her discharge, Yvonne made remarkable progress. She seemed to be able to remember most things – especially her credit card number, but not the accident. She went through several stages of emotional stress - 'feeling guilty stage' because of what had happened; 'why me and not one of the bad people on the streets'? I am not a bad person', ashamed that so many people had been upset by what had happened and embarrassed that she was the centre of attention. However, after many long conversations with us, often late into the night, she began to comprehend the whole scenario.

She did suffer some physical discomfort from being in bed so long, but with physiotherapy this has diminished and her strength has returned slowly, the determination being as strong as ever.

25th November – Yvonne doing well. Physically normal, some problem with memory – word finding. Moods and behaviour hyperactive. Dad back at work, mum not able to leave Yvonne yet. Pray for healing of left ear, infection and ringing. Full healing of memory and emotions. Mum very anxious about future. Thanks and love to you all.

Back in October we would never have imagined that we would be celebrating this day - Yvonne's 21st birthday

Sunday, 31st December – Faithful prayers, today is Yvonne's 21st birthday. We celebrate God's amazing gift for Yvonne and pray she will receive the full healing of knowing Jesus herself.

After several exhausting nights out and suffering from a flu-type virus, Yvonne had a small loss of understanding and speech the day after her birthday.

Tuesday, 2nd January – Yvonne experienced sudden loss of language yesterday afternoon. Couldn't find words she wanted to say. Very upset. Pray for cause to be revealed and healing, peace of heart and mind and for Linda (mum, who is very stressed).

To put every aspect of this miracle on paper would take an age – in short Yvonne cannot recall the accident at all, but when told how the accident occurred, believes the angels and her stubbornness helped her survive. After contacting the hospital on several occasions to secure an earlier follow-up appointment (suggested date was March), Yvonne was seen in Out-Patients by the Registrar at the end of January. He was extremely pleased with her progress and she was discharged from their care.



Monday, 29th January – PRAISE OUR WONDERFUL GOD! Four months ago today we were told that Yvonne may not survive her horrific head injury and would be very likely to have brain damage. Today she has been discharged from hospital care and told she can return to work, and re-apply for her driving licence. Thank you all for your faith to pray and believe.

Yvonne returned to work 12th February (part-time) – amazingly in some in-house training examinations she gained 83%, 85% and 95%. She has been given permission to drive her car, totally regaining her independence. A very wide smile appeared on her face that day.

Our family will be eternally grateful to Linda who religiously sent out hundreds of texts, sometimes twice a day, updating everyone about Yvonne's condition. We thank each and every one of you for your prayers, love and support at this difficult time. More importantly we thank God – he answered those prayers. We have the proof – Yvonne, our only child – Our Living Miracle!