

Story of Her Husband's Miracle and Healing

By Muriel Cook

Announcer:

Torrey Memorial Bible Conference, January 1980. This is the fourth in a series of tapes by Mrs. Muriel Cook. This one is entitled The Story of Her Husband's Miracle and Healing.

Muriel Cook:

I can't believe the week is already gone. It's been really full and wonderful, and you've all been so wonderful to me. I really have appreciated your friendship and your support, your response. You have been a real friend to me, and I can't express it how I feel it because you might even think that it's insincere. I really feel close to the Biola student body and felt so honored to be asked to come. All week, you've been so faithful to take notes. I'd like you to just take your notebooks and put them under your chair. I just want you to relax and listen because I'm going to tell you a story. We've been talking about principles. We've been talking about steps. And today I want to give you a story that I hope will illustrate all these principles. But most of all, that God will be glorified and we need to be sure that he gets the glory and that he is praised.

He is worthy. You know that? Of our love and our praise. And I want to make sure that's what I do today. Will you please forgive me for being really personal this morning? I struggled through it a little bit because it's such a personal story that I feel completely free to go ahead and do it because you've been so open and loving to me and repeatedly expressed me how much you've appreciated me and you've affirmed me. And so I'm going to just take the Liberty of talking to you like we were very old friends and kind of opening up my heart on my personal life and just sharing it with you. I was telling you, before that Norm and I have been missionaries with

Overseas Crusades for 27 years. And we have been on the island of Taiwan for 16 of those years. We went out at 22 and 23. We were the youngest missionaries to ever go with Overseas Crusades. And then he had pastored a Church, student pastored, during College and taken seminary during the summer while he was still in College. And you can imagine I mean, it was just really rough. And then we went out and every time he came back on furlough, we went back to school.

So that's how he got his education. And that's another reason we were able to go so young. But we went out for a junior term, two years, and then we came back to seminary and then went back out. And this guy, I've already laid the foundation, you get the picture, very very active. And I've just always prayed that I'd be able to keep up with them because I think it's important to be a good wife, to be able to keep up with your husband and run around with my tongue hanging down to my knees most of the time trying to keep up with them. And one summer, every summer, we had the Venture and Victor basketball team. I have lost more basketball uniforms than you can believe. They play two games a day, especially the first two months. They were just starting that program. My husband was on the first team, 1952. They played 80-something games in 40 days or something like that. And they didn't even play on Sunday. And, well, you know, all the statistics for men have come and told you. So I was washing out uniforms, and they were putting them on wet.

Literally. They wore wet uniforms to their game. And I served more ice tea. And it was great, but it was really tiring, because in the tropics in the summer, you can just imagine what life was like. And we were getting exhausted. We had been on the field ten years at that time. And my

husband was the director. And of course, that meant that he really had to coordinate everything else Besides the team being there. And I said, Norman, we need a vacation. We've got to take a break. And the reason is because this husband of mine, whose whole vivacious was getting exhausted, and I was getting worried. And he said, if you can just wait till September 1, we will go on vacation. September 1. I took him to the hospital. He woke up, and he never had a headache. I mean, he's never sick. And I can still see him. He leaned over and he put his forehead on the cool cement wall or plaster wall in our bedroom. That's the only thing cool around. And it hadn't heated up yet from the Sunshine. And he said, oh, I've got a headache. So I took his temperature, and he had a nice roaring temperature.

And I got him by the ear. And I said, you're going to the doctor right now? Well, he was too sick to fight me off. So we got the car, and we went to the hospital. And the doctor said, you're not going home. I'm putting you upstairs in bed. In the hospital, he said, You've got a royal, roaring case of flu. And when they tucked to him in bed and all the nurses and everybody went out, he opened one eye and he said, well, at least we're alone. And I didn't think that was very much of a vacation with him in bed. And he's sitting beside him. I was a little disturbed because he was so sick with the flu. And I went home that night. And the next morning I was there bright and early, like 815, 830. I walked in, he opened his eyes, and he says, oh, Hi, honey. Close his eyes. 20 minutes later, he woke up, and he said, oh, when did you get here? I thought, well, he's kind of tired, and he got a fever. A few minutes later, he woke up. He says, oh, when did you get here?

I thought, you don't act like that with the flu. And I got worried and troubled. So I went to see the doctor. I said, I don't think he has the flu. He's got something else wrong with him. He's not

clicking. Well, the doctor was busy all day long. Went by that night. They came in and they took a spinal tap. And then I heard them talking. Now, in the Orient, in most countries of the world, outside of the United States, you don't have the things that cushion you from the hard back. Here, they don't even let you visit, hardly. But there you sit by your loved one's side all the time they're sick, and the doctors discuss all the gory details in front of you. And I could tell they were worried. And so they called in specialists. Now, around the world, the United States has five research centers and they're fantastic. They have sent their experts, like in Taiwan, they're trying to stamp out leprosy. They have stamped out malaria. And they had a specialist there, one of the finest in all the world in meningitis encephalitis field. And they called him at 10:00 at night.

Now, I had no right as a civilian to call for him, but my doctor could call him as a doctor. And so we called him. And I'll never forget how uneasy I was waiting for this important man to come. And he arrived and he was a big stop in the US Navy, big officer, and he was very with it. And he walked in and he does like he said, I want to know who you are and where you're from. And when I said missionary, he stopped and looked at the knee, looked at the top of my head all the way down to the top of my feet. Interesting expression that I have never met so many of those as I have since I been here. But I knew what he thought of missionary. And I prayed. I said, Lord, don't let that affect his good judgment and please help me. Now, I knew he was not a man of God. That was very obvious for many reasons. He went in and he checked over my husband. He took a flashlight and went over every square into his body. I didn't know what he was looking for, but I found out later he was looking for a mosquito bite.

And he came out and late that night and you know, everything's harder in the dark. I think that's something for you to remember that it's better to go to bed and deal with it in the morning because everything is harder in the dark. So he said to me, late at night, I'm standing all alone in that hospital. He said, Your husband had Japanese B Type encephalitis. But a cold Hill went to my heart because just a week before, a missionary child, twelve year old boy had died there in Taiwan, with Japanese B type encephalitis. And it was a kid that we had been with up in the mountains at a camp. And Norman, being so athletic, he had gone down in the evening to swim with his kids in the Lake. And it looked like both of them had been bitten by these encephalitis mosquitoes. And this little boy had died the week before with his brain so damaged that he could not move his eyeball. He's gone in three days. And when the doctor said that Norm had encephalitis, can you imagine the terror that was struck in my heart? And I said, well, what is his chance?

And he said, he has 30% chance to live. That's all he told me. I had to get home from the hospital. And I want you to know I'm going to try to explain to you how I felt. I felt like if I let go, that I would break into a thousand pieces. And I was just as before I walked into my dark house. My two daughters, one was seven and one was ten was on the floor. The lady was watching him left. And I laid down on my bed just like a board. I couldn't think. And finally I realized that if I was going to go through this with my husband, I was going to have to be strong. So I sent up an SOS, Lord, I said, oh, God, help me. I've got to be able to sleep if I'm going to be able to stand beside him through this. But I couldn't relax. Now, our little daughter had never in her life gotten out of bed and gotten in bed with me and asleep like a lot of kids do. But I had no more than pray that prayer. And here came this little blonde, cuddly seven year old.

She was sound asleep, and she came in and she crawled in bed and she put her little chubby arms around me, and it was just like Jesus put his arms around me. And I went right to sleep. The next morning when I woke up, I had blackness in my soul. There was absolutely no light. It was just as if I had been dropped into a pit. And I was just trying to keep from sinking deeper and deeper. There was no foundation. We hear about all these things about the Lord. But here I was just falling into a darkness. I tried to look up. There was no light. There was no way out. Well, I had dozens of missionary friends that I could have called, but I didn't want to call any of them because I didn't have any victory in my heart. I didn't want them to see me, and I didn't want to see them. I slipped out of my house before my Chinese girl could see me, because I had Chinese girls that helped me in the home of the housework. And I stood to the hospital in this state of mind. And when I walked into Norman's room, he was semi conscious.

And they had put an RN beside his bed. And guess who that RN was? It was a girl that I had known and that I had tried to lead to Christ with one of my contacts. And I had gotten to the job in the hospital. And she was an atheist. And I thought, the last person I want to see is an atheist. Very contrary to my personality. I walked in, I said, Hi. And I sat on this side of the bed. And I put my head down on the bed. And I wouldn't look at her. I couldn't talk to her. I was utterly defeated. All the things I'd ever learned in College, all the things I'd ever heard in messages, nothing came. And I sat there and stared at the floor. I don't know how long, maybe 2 hours. I don't know. Now, here's the spiritual principle. That when you allow yourself to get that discouraged, always Satan comes rushing in like a flood always. And that's what he did. He came

and he camped on me. He talked to me, and I didn't recognize his voice. And the first thing he said was all in my mind was, isn't this an awful place?

I didn't think Taiwan was an awful place. I thought it was a beautiful place. I loved it there. This is an awful place because this place has terrible disease in it. Just then I saw a great big cockroach who's about the size of that big crawling across the hospital floor, of all things. And now, let me say something to you. It is not a disgrace to have cockroaches in the Orient, in the tropics. Everybody has them. It's not whether you have them or not, because it is great just how many you have that makes the difference. And I knew better than to let it throw me, but it really threw me. And Satan said, see, that's why it's an awful place. Dirty here. Do you know, I just loathe the country for a few minutes. And then Satan had me right where you want to be. And he said, I just think if you hadn't left home, come 13,000 miles from home, you wouldn't... This would never have happened to you if you hadn't come to this awful place. Well, it was only then that I recognized who was talking, because I knew that God had taken us to Taiwan and that somebody, and it was Satan, was lying to me.

What do you do? Then? I thought, I'm thinking, I'm in trouble. Satan has got a hold of of me. And I've got his mind, and I don't have to do... And I had been holding my Bible all those hours under my arm, just like a lifesaver. But I had it set tight under my arm. And I thought, I have to discipline myself to get it out from under my arm. And opened and I got it open. Then I had a rebellion inside. I thought, yes, you know all the verses on healing, don't you? And which one are you going to look up and claim? And I said, Lord, I don't want to look up any verse on healing. I don't want that. I want a message from you. What shall I do? And the Holy Spirit

directed me to go to the place where I had been studying before all this happened. Where have I been reading in the Word before the crisis. And it was Romans, chapter one. I had just started Romans. And, you know, there's not a word of comfort in it. And I said, Well, I'll go right back there.

And God, if you have something for me, you can give it to me right there. And so I opened it up. I was not going to dig out something and claim it for myself unless it was from God. And I Wade it through Rome. And finally I saw a little cross reference. Didn't recognize it at all. And I thought, Well, I'll look up this cross reference and guess what it was? Isaiah 55:12 and 13. And when I read it, I was stunned. Let me tell you why. Ten years before, when we were having to make a decision on whether we would go to Taiwan or not, Norman and I decided not to talk about it. We talked about the whole thing. Should we? Shouldn't we? Why should we? As God leading all those things. And we decided we would separate from one another and not talk about it. Of course, we lived on the same roof, but that we would pray for two weeks and then come back together. And at that time, we would share with each other what God said. And we'd be honest. Well, after three days, I started leaving again and sleeping and whistling.

None said, you know, don't you? You've got some kind of answer, haven't you? I said, yeah. He said, what is it? I said, no, we have an agreement. Two weeks. I could see he wasn't eating and he wasn't sleeping very well. So I just knew I couldn't say anything to him. And then after two weeks, I said, okay, now we can talk. What has God shown you? Well, he said, Honey, God gave me Isaiah 55:12 and 13. I said, you're kidding. That's what he gave me. Guess what it says. You shall go out with joy and he and be led forth with peace. The mountains and the Hills will break

forth into shouts of joy before you. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Do you know that that was a perfect description of Taiwan? We had gotten books from the library describing the terrain, the climate. Taiwan is a mountainous. Mountainous. That's the way they describe it. One of the most mountainous regions in the world. With the highest cliffs, highest mountain peaks. And it is covered with vegetation and trees. Listen to this. You'll go out and be led forth.

The mountains and the Hills will break forth into shouts of joy. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. And instead of the thorn Bush, the Cypress will come up. And instead of the nettle, the Myrtle will come up. And it will be as a Memorial to the Lord. For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off. And that was the scripture that he gave us. He gave many others and gave me many others. But those were the two verses he gave us together.

And ten years later, sitting in a hospital room with my husband critically ill, what did God do? He gave it back to me. I'd forgotten it. I hadn't thought of it for years. And, you know, it just unlocked my heart. And I realized God brought us here. If he brought us here, he knows what's happening. He knows Norm is sick. And it's okay. It's not good, but it's okay because God knows about it. And it's in his program. And then I realized that the next thing I was free to do was turn to the Psalms. You know what to do when you're just so down and don't know how to pray.

Pray the Psalms. You may have to someday when everything's black and you can't pray, pray the Psalm. I just opened the Psalms with abandonment. And I came to Psalm 143. My eyes on seven. Answer me quickly, O Lord, for my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me. Lest I become

like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear the loving kindness in the morning. There I was in the morning like I was in the pit. Black despair. And God said, you're acting just like this girl across from you, sitting there by the side of the bed. This nurse is without hope. And you're acting just like someone who is without hope. And you have me. And she blah. And I said, oh, God, I had to ask for forgiveness. I said, Forgive me, Father. And it wasn't until then that I felt what they talk about when they say, underneath, are they everlasting arm? It wasn't till then. And I can't explain to you because you won't have the experience until you get there. That's what happened underneath. And the Lord lifted me up out of pit. And I could raise my head.

And I looked at this little girl. She said, Mrs. Cook, hadn't spoken for me to meet the whole twice. She was too smart by then. She knew she shouldn't. She said, Mrs. Cook, your husband is very ill. And I said, Isn't God good? He gave me a chance to say, I know, but my trust is in God now. That was the beginning of an absolute nightmare. That was not the end. That was just the beginning. Things did not get better. Things got much worse. But it was from that moment on that I was aware that God loved me. And I began to see many manifestations of his love for me. And I cannot tell them all to you. But my husband suffered so badly, and this disease ravished his body and his mind, his brain, it was so terrible that he literally pulled his hair with pain. And being an athlete and being he's only 36 at that time, he had to have two men holding down the clock around the clock. They tied both legs, both arms. They put a rail around that hospital bed that had two RNs. And they still had to have two men to hold him down.

And he begged me in his semi conscious state to stop the pain. Do you know what that would mean to someone who loves and I want you to know, I am so weak that when he cuts his finger, I

have to cry before I can wrap it up. And God helped me stand by his bed 16 hours a day and hold him and talk to him and pray for him. And he doesn't remember any of it because he was semi-conscious. What God can do to the weakest of us. His temperature went up to 106. They said he would go right out of the thermometer that his lungs would collapse. He was having convulsions, and it got worse and worse and worse. And the doctor walked in one morning and looked at all his news and said, I wasn't there, thank God. But he said, you guys are praying, aren't you? He said, don't pray for this man. Prognosis is dead. That was how hard he was. You know, I knew I couldn't witness to that man with my mouth, but I began to pray that God would help me, whether by life or by death, that he would see that God is with us, whether I lost my husband or whether what do you know what encephalitis is?

It has the ability to cripple you totally physically and to ravage your mind. Boom. And all this time, God never gave me any promises that he would heal my husband. Do you know the only verse that he gave me? It was John 11:40. Did I not say that if you would only believe, you will see the glory of God. I fought that birth. What does it mean? Just trust me and you'll see my glory. The Lord I want him to live. Just trust me and you'll see the glory. You know what? I was afraid. I was afraid I would lose Norm, and then I lose my faith. And I was afraid I would just crack up. Just trust me. And that meant he wasn't going to show me anything, give me any hope, all the hope I had that he was there. And I said, what if you leave me? What will I do then? I will really crack up. And the Lord gave me something precious. He said, do you remember Mary? She sat at his feet, what did Jesus say? Jesus said, and no one can take it away can take me away from her.

No one will take this away from her. Take what? No one can take you away from Jesus. Jesus promised that he will never leave you nor forsake you. Then how is it that you get separated from Him? The Lord said, Muriel, the only way that you get up off of your face, off of your knees and be my feet. Because I'll never be you. No one else can take you away. And so the only verse I got was, Trust me. That meant I had to stay right there at his feet. Things got worse and worse and worse. The iron lung sat outside the door. The packs of ice were all over him. The air conditioning blowing. And he was having convulsion. I was told with every convulsion there would bring down. I was told that even hiccups, which he had by the hour, were type of convulsion. I had shipped the girls off to a missionary family out in the country. Because obviously I was in hospital early morning till late at night. And the atmosphere at our house was very heavy. There was somebody there receiving calls. And you know what else? If you know the Chinese, they are very wonderfully supportive people.

And I knew they would come in hundreds to support me. And I knew the missionary community because my husband knew the missionaries well and had worked with all the nominees. I knew this had come and I wouldn't have the strength to see them. So I said, Lord, I want to see everyone that comes to my door. Because I want to be witnessed. I don't want them to think that I'm collapsing here because you are holding me up. But please don't send anyone that is not from you. And I will receive every single person that comes to my door from you. I was very interested to see who he brought and who he kept away and who wrote notes to me. And he sent the most unlikely people. He'd been a little servant girl, 120 miles. It took her a week, almost a month waiver to pay for her train fare. On her day off, she worked for one of our missing her

family. She came to the hospital and I saw her sweet little thing with no education. She said to your husband, sick. I'm here to sit with you. Like an angel. She was to me.

We sat all day. We didn't talk. She prayed and looked at me with eyes of love. I learned the secret. When you're in a tough spot. And you can't face people. Tell God, don't send anyone except your messengers. And I will receive them just as if they were Jesus Christ. On Saturday, at the end of that seven days when I got to hospital, every doctor there was in that room. Ten nurses. They were working over Norman and the convulsions were so bad I knew I had to remove myself from the room. Sometimes, you know, there is a limit. And I sat outside that room and I sat down and missionary after missionary came from all of the city and just knelt by my chair, didn't talk to me, and prayed and leave, and come and pray, and leave. Finally God began to say, Muriel, you've gotten two children and you haven't prepared them that their Daddy is dying. You know, in our house we always prepared him for everything. They went to the dentist. We'd get down on the floor the day before and we'd say, okay, open your mouth big and wide. Okay? Now here we get a pencil.

And we had a tap that on their teeth. We said, now, this is the way it's going to feel. And we prepared him for everything. But the greatest crises that we've ever been through, ever faced. I haven't even talked it over with them. And suddenly this terrific urge. I had to go home. I had to tell Michelle and Malay and I didn't have words. How do you tell a ten year old and a seven year old their Daddy's dying? Besides that, they weren't at home. My friends in the country didn't have a telephone. I couldn't call them, but I had to go home. I had such an urgency. And I went home and there stood Shelley at the door, ten years old. She said, Mama, I had to come home.

She said, I told the missionary to please bring us home. And that missionary, bless her heart, did it. And so I said, Lord, I have no words. I had no way of knowing what to say. And I said, okay, I'm going to take them one at a time into my bedroom. I had a big overstuffed chair. We had local Oriental furniture, but we got one big old Raggedy Ann overstuffed chair from America that somebody had left, and we bought it.

It was like, oh, heaven to sit in there and have coffee. So we had that overstuffed chair in our bedroom. And so I took Shelley first and I put her in the chair and I knelt down beside her, and this is what God gave me to say to her. I said, Shelley, you know Daddy's very sick. She said, yes, I know, Mama. And I said, I'm not sure, Shelley, but I think that maybe God wants Daddy to be with him in heaven. And if that's true, that means he will have to leave us. And if God wants him, then that will be because it's right. And isn't that true? And by this time tears were coming down her cheeks. And she said, yes, Mama. And I said, then we should never be angry or resentful if God wants Daddy to be with him, instead of with us. And I said, let's think of it this way, that this is the sweetest gift that we could ever give to Jesus. And then the Lord gave me Psalm 27. The Lord is my light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear? It's terrific fear that grips your heart at a time like that.

The Lord is the defense of my life. Whom shall I be afraid? I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord. Be strong. Let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for the Lord. I said, Shelley, before we can have courage, we've got to be strong. Lift up your head now lift it up, and God will give you courage. When she went in her room, she memorized those verses. When Dr. Hillis came, he flew all the

way from America to preach Norm's funeral. Shelley went to the airport with others. I couldn't go. And she said, Uncle Dick, let me tell you what God has given to me. That's how she greeted our director of Overseas Crusades. At ten years old, we think children can't take heartache. We think children can't understand principles. But I had a seven year old yet to tell, and I lifted this little chubby blonde up into this seat and her feet didn't even touch the floor. They just stuck straight out so little. And I started the same process. And she's amazing. All her life, she's always been stoic.

And so she just held the tears back till her face became deep red. Finally, with tears finally formed in her eyes. And she said, but can't we ask God to heal Daddy? Interesting question from a seven year old. And I said, sure, we can ask God for anything. If we can stand to let him do what he wants, we will ask him, but then we will leave the results up to God. If he says yes, that's good. If he takes daddy, then we have to accept that. That night, I knew I couldn't go back to the hospital. I had to stay with my girls. I had been away from them, so I stayed with them. And they were like two little chicks right here. And I said, what do you want to do? And they said, let's take a walk. It was at Twilight. We walked up and down in front of the compound where we live. You know what? I was waiting for a car to drive in with one of the men to tell that Norm is gone. I walked up and down in front of the compound in our Chinese neighborhood. I bumped into a Chinese Lady.

She said, [inaudible Mandarin]. What's the matter? There's something wrong with your face. There's got something wrong with your face. I've never seen you look like that. Now, you see, God could have sent a missionary, but he sent a Chinese to comfort me. And it happened to be a

Chinese that I had led to Christ in the neighborhood. And she was very tall, unusual for a Chinese Lady. I fit right under her arm. And boy, I tell you, she put her arm around me and she ministered the Word to me back and forth in front of that house. Let me tell you something. I don't care what kind of work you go into. If you're not in the Ministry, learn to Minister to your Minister, learn to bless other people. And you're already learning, because you have really helped me this week. You have affirmed me and loved me. And you've offered to help me in dozens of different ways. We need you. You see, you have a Ministry, even if you're a mechanic or a nurse or a housewife or whatever, you have a Ministry, and you need to Minister to those who are in the pulpit and who are up front.

And that's what God did. He send her to me didn't send all those wise missionaries. None of them really came to talk to me that night. I put the girls to bed, and I sat and waited. And then I heard the footsteps, and I looked up. And standing in the door was a young man. He and his wife had been in service, and they had attended Bible classes that Norman and I had for the GIs and their wives. And we had led him and his wife to Christ. They went back to the state. They got out of his service. They went into seminary. They came back as missionaries. And he had been standing there beside Norman's bed. And I thought, they've sent Bob to tell me Norm is gone. I said, Is he gone, Bob? And he said, no. But the doctor had sent him to tell me he wouldn't live through the night. But he didn't tell me he was such a man of God that he let the Holy Spirit tell him what to tell me. And the Holy Spirit said, no, don't put it into words. And dear Bob just prayed with me.

And he thanked me again that we had led them to Christ. And he left our home. The next day I called the hospital. They said, Come right over. There's been a change in your husband. We untied all the ropes. We've taken down the bars. He's still unconscious, but he's quiet. So I got over there and I thought it was a good sign. We were standing around five, six of the missionary men and myself. And the doctor comes in the room. Every time this doctor would come in the room, my legs would just go to jelly. Why? Because he was the official. I mean, he was the authority. And I had to believe him. I had to be able to trust him, and I had to be able to bear what he said. And he said, out, out, out... Everybody out. Of course, he's an American doctor. This is in the Chinese hospital. And there were no rules about visiting. So we went out, and then he came out and he said, I want to talk to you, Muriel. Well, everybody left, of course. And my moment had come. I had asked God that whether by life or by death, that this man who was not a man of God, who didn't even believe he existed, would see God.

And that I would be able to stand up because I was just like noodles. And he said, I've got to talk to you. He said, Your husband is going to live. And I said, but you're not happy about it. What's the matter? He said, I'm not happy about it because he said, Your husband has irretrievable brain damage. It had been confirmed by three doctors. And I said, what does that mean? He said, that means he will never know you again. He will not recognize his children. He will never work. And maybe in a year's time he will be able to dress himself. That's worse than death. I want to tell you what happened to me. It was like I wasn't standing there. It was like Muriel Cook had been put over against the wall by God's mercy. And the week Muriel Cook was crouching against the wall, watching the whole scene. While the other Muriel, who was really Jesus, stood

in my place with poise and dignity and Grace. And received the news for me. Do you understand that weak, cringing Muriel was over here, put aside, out of the way, out of the view of the doctor.

And the Muriel, with Christ in her, stood strong and tall without a tear in front of this man of the world. And I was able to walk away with him with poise and all the way home till I got to my bedroom, close the door. I believe that God wants us to walk before the world in our triumph, with dignity. Because he is in us. And we are to be the examples to the world of his Grace. When I shut that door, I laid on the floor, my face down. I don't know how long, but I cut every tie that I ever had with my husband. Relinquishing every relationship. We had been childhood sweethearts. We were best friends. We were lovers. He was my life, my future, the husband, the father of my children. And I cut every tie. And I gave every one of those relationships back to God. And then I had peace. And I got up and I went to bed. And I went to sleep. The next three days, we just sat beside his bed. He didn't move a muscle. He was totally unconscious. And then suddenly, without even moving a finger, he opened both his eyes.

I was standing behind his head, at the head of the bed. Five or six mission directors were standing at the foot and at the side. And when he opened his eyes, like this. All of them saw it. And they all looked up at me. And no one spoke a word. And I realized that Norman was awake. So I walked around. I looked at his eyes, and the pupil of both eyes had dilated so large that it completely covered the Iris. He had bright blue eyes. And they were both black, gold. Black. I couldn't read the expression. And I said very deliberately, Norman, this is Muriel. Do you know me? And for what seemed like an eternity, he looked back at me with those black eyes. And he said, Are you crazy? You're my wife. Well, you know, I just really sat down. I almost collapsed.

I thought I was speechless. And he looked around the room, and he was a little bit disgusted. He said, Where am I? He said, what's going on here? He said, Hi, David. It was our head Chinese worker. He says, Hi, Bill. That was another one. And then our director, Dick Hillis, walked in.

I didn't know he was there to preach the funeral, girls. I knew that he was there. And Norm looked like he was alarmed because Dick Hillis was supposed to be in America. And I said, Honey, you're sick. And you've been quite ill. And I said, you're in the hospital, and Dick is here to see you. He says, Well, Hello, Dick Hillis. What do you do? He says, I'm not sick. He says, Where's the doctor? I'm not kidding you. There's exactly the words. He said, Where's the doctor? Let me have a talk with the doctor. Well, the nurses that had been in the room that got this reaction were the best nurses in that hospital staff, fabulous Chinese nurses. They had rushed out of the room. The news beat the elevator down to the third floor. We were on the third floor. That was the first floor. And they said, he's awake. He knows everything. He's awake. He knows everything. He knows everything.

And just then, this big doctor walked in the front door. And I never knew when he was coming because he was so important. He never made appointments with me. He walked in that front door, and several nurses jumped on him and said, oh, doctor, Mr. Cook is awake. And he knows everything. And he didn't wait for the elevator because it was as slow as a seven year itch. And I could hear him coming up those steps, three floors. And he pounded around the corner. And he ordered us all out. Well, we by that time, looked like we had been through the seven year war seven times. And like we've been run through a Bush backwards. And we all went out into the hall, and we leaned up against the wall. We just couldn't talk. We were speechless. And he shut

the door. And he made his examination, and he came out and he looked totally floored. He said, well, he's 100% perfect.

And then, oh, Ye little faith spoke up. It's amazing how you can be so strong that God's helped 1 minute and so weak the next. And I said, you mean physically or mentally? He said, I mean physically and mentally... And mentally. And that doctor looked at me as if I were a celestial being. Such a different expression than the ten days before. And he said, I'm going to talk to you. And it took me. And he said, I have got proof that this man has had Japanese B type encephalitis.

I know it as a fact. And he took 45 minutes to show me clerk slides of the test tube. I didn't know beans about it. And I kept saying, Doctor, I know he has had it. I know he had it. It's all right. But he couldn't get it together. It wasn't supposed to have happened like this. And one of our missionaries, Doctor Hillis, said, Doctor. He said, Wasn't this God? And the doctor swore. He says, we worked off a blankety-blank hard. And Dick said, yes, but would that have saved his life? And the doctor said, well, in this case, it had to be God. Well, he said to us, I never want to lose contact with you. For the first time in his life, he came face to face with the living God. My atheistic nurse friend has not given her heart to Christ, and neither has the doctor. But they both acknowledge there is a God. At least sometimes. Why did God heal Norman? I don't know. Except the fact that it brought glory to him. Do you know that that summer two little boys from missionary homes died? God did not heal them.

One missionary mother died that summer. God did not heal them. He never promised me that he would heal Norman. But he chose to heal Norman. That's no guarantee I'll have him all my life.

But it was a lesson in trust, that God always does everything perfectly. Always. And he makes our way perfect. And I want to say to you that I praise him and I trust him. And I want us to praise him together for all the good things we have received from him. So much good. And he deserves our praise and our worship till we bow our heads in prayer.

Father, we love you, O Lord. You are worthy because you are always faithful and you are there. And you are able even when we are not, when we are the weakest. Then you are the strongest in us. Father, help us to know that our lives ahead will be hard. None of us know what even tonight will bring or tomorrow will bring. But help us to know we can trust you. And that with Jesus Christ we can be more than triumphant, whether by life or by death. In Jesus name, Amen.

Closing Speaker:

And my husband and I were two of the founding members of the Church. And our pastors, through overseas crusades, heard that this man, Norm Cook, was terribly ill in Taiwan. None of us had ever heard of Norm or Muriel before. We knew other OC missionaries, but not Norm and Muriel. And so our pastor asked every one of us to pray for this man, Norm Cook. And we did for, I'm sure, most of that ten day period because we heard very near the beginning of the time that he was so ill. And it was a thrilling experience to pray intently for somebody that you had never met or didn't know, but somehow were drawn to him. And it's so exciting, really, to hear this story. I have never heard it so fully from Muriel before. And now here we are. How many years later, Muriel? Whatever 16 years later. And Muriel and I are very good friends. They came home from Taiwan after this, I'm not sure fairly soon after. And they have been home ever since and have been members of our Church. But isn't it exciting how the Lord works? We prayed in Valley for Norm's healing, and that is what the Lord wanted for us to do.

Yet Muriel never felt led to do that. And she didn't know this. She didn't know where the norm would be taken, as she has it described to you. But I just thought that for your faith and your growth and your own experiences as you go through life that God works in Biola. He works in Ireland. Where I come from, he works in Taiwan. He works all over the world. And it's just a thrill to be part of of his work. Thank you.