



# Update

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## He Blesses—and Blesses Again!

It is exciting to see students at the Bible Institute grow and change as they understand what Jesus has done and is doing in their lives, how the Word of God is practical in their everyday lives. And it's exciting when Jesus touches them physically with healing. Meet Stephen who is one, and Jolene who is another.

You may remember Jolene in the Newsletter last November. Growing up, it seemed that no one cared, and life seemed to prove that was true. Until she met Jesus. Recently, she received a blessing that has her rejoicing and grinning from ear to ear. Before I tell you what the Lord did in her life, let me refresh your memory of her story before prison.

You will remember she was raised by a military father and a functioning alcoholic mother. Although Jolene didn't drink or do drugs, she was around family that did, and all sorts of things happen when people get drunk. She was in and out of minor problems with family disagreements where police were involved.

She married a boy to keep him out of prison. He met Jolene at a skating rink and took her home that night. The alcoholic mother, trying to control Jolene's life, falsely accused the boy of forcing sex with Jolene and called the police.

They lived on a ranch where room and board, clothing and transportation, were supplied with

\$25 a month spending money. When she became pregnant, she felt trapped and knew this was no place to try to raise a baby. The husband would not move to any other location and change jobs.

A family in West Virginia took her in, cared for her and adopted her baby boy since she was in no position to raise a baby. From there she hitchhiked to Philadelphia where she found a job and eventually married. She and her husband moved back to Texas near where her mother lived.

The husband deposited pay checks but secretly withdrew money without telling her. When the Sheriff came to arrest Jolene, her husband skipped town. She was arrested and sentenced to two years in prison for writing hot checks.

Her mother fell and broke her arm, so Jolene was granted a hardship parole to care for her. When her mother became out of control, Jolene got in her car and started driving. She didn't know how to trust anyone. She ended up in Oregon, worked five years, but family back in Texas demanded

that she come back and take care of her mother. Jolene did and a year later her mother died.

Meanwhile, Jolene had an alcoholic cousin who was sponging off the extended family to support her addiction. The family got together and decided that no one would give her any more money. Jolene had a good job and a nice place to live. This cousin came to her house and demanded money. When Jolene refused, the cousin hit her. Jolene called the police. During the phone conversation, the cousin came at her and in the scuffle, Jolene shoved her to get her away. Being drunk, the cousin lost her balance, hit her head on the handle of the stove and died instantly.

The Harris County DA charged her with manslaughter and the trial had eight errors in it, but they apparently considered her as socially invaluable. She was sentenced to 60 years. In prison she received Christ as her Savior, and after 28 ½ years she was paroled to Calvary Commission.

She is in my class and I have watched her change as she is feeling the love of staff and fellow ladies in the dorm.

**Here is the blessing.** Jolene had a hearing loss of 90% in one ear, and 75% in the other ear. By the time she was 40 she could not talk on a regular telephone. I had noticed when she talked with me

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that she would stand close and seemed to always look at my mouth. I really didn't think anything about it, but now I know she was reading my lips because of her hearing loss.

Two weeks ago, she and most of the student body went to Corner Stone Church in Tyler, Texas which is closely associated with Calvary Commission. The guest evangelist Dale Everett was preaching, and the Lord was moving in a powerful way in the services.

She told me that she had always been skeptical of "healing services." To her they were a lot of hype and she doubted their sincerity, but she didn't know for sure. When she went into the church building there was such a presence of the Holy Spirit that she started changing her attitude. Maybe this was real.

Then she noticed that the music was loud and not muffled sounding like it normally was. One of the lady students sitting beside her said something during the praise music and Jolene heard her. Jolene began to get excited and started testing sounds in other ways.

When the evangelist spoke, she could hear him. It was beginning to sink in that God had healed her ears! She noticed something else. For years she had always had a mild pain running from her left ear all the way down into her neck—not the throbbing kind of pain, but a dull pain that was always there. That pain was gone!

The afternoon before the service, the evangelist had received in prayer that there would be two streams of healing in the service—ears would be healed, and nerve pain in the back and hip area would be healed. He simply preached his

message, and at the end told what the Lord had said to him. He asked people to come share what God had done for them. Jolene went up and testified of her healing and then the next morning in chapel she shared it again.

I couldn't help but think about how life had been so unfair to her, and I thought "Isn't that just like a loving Heavenly Father to give her this instantaneous miracle of healing while she was sitting in the song service!" Needless to say, she is one happy lady!

**Another blessing.** In that same service Stephen also was touched by the Lord. He had been shot by a 45 bullet that entered one side of his hip and went through to the other side and stopped just inside the outer skin. He says he can feel the bullet when he presses with his hand. He was convicted, sent to prison, and when he arrived, he could hardly walk. He moved along in little short steps.

As some time passed and he made things right with God in prison, he received a partial healing from the Lord. He was laying around not really knowing anything else to do when the Lord spoke to him and told him to exercise, so Stephen obeyed. If I remember correctly, he received another touch in prison.

Now in this service in Tyler, Stephen received a third touch. He could hardly contain his joy when he told me his legs are working much more smoothly after the touch in the meeting. He can tell the difference. He is so grateful for all the Lord has done in his life.

The students have various assigned chores, and Wednesday after the noon meal, Stephen's job was to sweep the eating area with a

push broom. As he was walking at a relatively fast pace pushing that broom, I thought, "Look at those legs now, they are working well!" Blessed be the name of the Lord!

### **A Matter of Perspective**

A few years ago, I was excited about a personal miraculous healing like Jolene's and shared it with a group. The question was asked, "Why doesn't God heal you of your post-polio syndrome and things to do with your heart?"

My answer was, I am thankful that God has not given me what I deserve. God has extended His mercy to me thousands of times over my lifetime.

I don't know why God hasn't healed the results of polio, but I do know that He is sovereign, and He will order my life according to His wisdom. When I am filled with the love of God, I can rejoice when someone else receives a miracle from God.

But most important of all, each one of us will receive the ultimate healing in the resurrection when we receive our new glorified bodies. So, if others are healed and you are not, rejoice! ✨

### **Thank You!**

I am ever so grateful for the financial support and the prayer support that you give. Lives are changing. Every week one or more students will share the good things that God is doing in their lives and often it is in response to what I have taught them in class.

When we minister to people who cannot support us, God raises up people to fill the gap. God is recording that, and there will be reward in heaven for it. You share in any reward I receive. Thank you!

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