



Teen healed at youth revival

By: AG News

Tyler Clarensau plans to try out for baseball when he enters Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Mo., this fall. He is a strong and healthy 14-year-old. To look at him, one would never imagine that just months ago he had to struggle in agony to climb a flight of stairs.

“We learned when Tyler was 6 weeks old that he had some problems in his hips, congenital hip dysplasia,” remembers his father, the Rev. Mike Clarensau. “The doctor said if we didn’t respond with medical treatment, he probably would never walk. He was in and out of braces and casts his first 15 months.”

The treatments appeared to work at first. When Tyler’s brother, Blake, was born, he went through a similar program and recovered as well.

“The condition is rare,” Mike explains. “When it does occur, about four out of five times it occurs in girls. Yet, both of our boys went through it. A research paper was written on them because they are quite an exception. Blake came out of it without any problems. He healed without any problems after his surgery. Tyler’s didn’t heal as fully.”

When Tyler was 5, the family received another discouraging report. The new prognosis was metaphyseal dysplasia.

“Instead of the bones in his legs growing long and thin they were widening near the joints,” says Kerry Clarensau, his mother.

Mike and Kerry serve at the Assemblies of God Headquarters in Springfield as editor in chief of the church’s Radiant Life Sunday School Curriculum and coordinator of Missionettes (a ministry outreach to girls) respectively. They share their church’s belief in God’s ability to heal any physical illness. While they pursued a variety of medical solutions to Tyler’s condition, they also called on family and friends and fellow church members to pray with them for Tyler. In answer to those prayers, Tyler’s strength increased and he became involved in athletics.

“Tyler’s been prayed for at District Councils, he’s been prayed for by people all over the country who became aware of the need. Prayer chains have been involved,” Mike remembers. “There have been some wonderful people that have prayed for him over the years.”

But in recent years, Tyler’s condition again deteriorated. Orthopedic surgery repeatedly loomed on the horizon. His legs were growing crooked. The inside growth plate near the knee was growing faster than the outside growth plate and causing the leg to bow out. In December of 1996, surgeons put staples in the one plate so it would stop growing until the other side could catch up.

“Unfortunately,” Mike says, “the growth then went in the other direction and overcompensated, so we had another surgery last September.”

On September 2, 1998, surgeons performed an osteotomy on Tyler’s right leg. Breaking his thighbone just above the knee, they sliced a wedge of bone out, forced the leg straight and installed an 8-inch plate with five screws. Recovery

was an extremely painful process.

Throughout their family's ordeal, the Clarensaus continued to pray. God's answer to those prayers did not immediately involve healing. But divine assistance came in other ways.

"God has given Tyler such an element of grace," Kerry says. "Through his surgeries the doctors have all said, 'It's incredible how this kid is handling this.' He hardly used the morphine drip. It's God's grace and he has really recognized that."

Despite the surgery, the condition persisted. At each visit to the orthopedic specialist in Kansas City, the outlook for the future seemed to involve more surgery, more pain, and less hope that Tyler would ever resume the athletics of his earlier years.

"After the last surgery," Kerry says, "the doctors were talking about three more surgeries, one to take this plate out and two for the other leg. Which would have probably taken us into Tyler's early adult life."

But the Clarensaus are expecting a completely different evaluation when they return to Kansas City this summer. Because on May 21, at their home church, Park Crest Assembly of God, Tyler was miraculously healed.

"We were having three revivals at once--youth, adult, and children's meetings," Mike says. "Tyler was in the youth revival with Youth Evangelist Titus Lee."

For Tyler, it was not a particularly exciting evening at first.

"I'd been playing drums, so I was kind of sitting in the back after we were done singing," he says. "You usually don't pay attention as well. At the altar call Titus Lee asked if anyone wanted to come up and get healed."

At that point, Tyler thought of a lot of other altar calls he had answered. "I'd gone up, like, a hundred times to try to get healed. But something was telling me to go up again, to just keep going up. I went up there and, right off the bat, three others got healed. After 20 minutes Titus Lee had dismissed the service, but I felt something telling me not to leave yet."

And then the miracle took place. For Kerry Clarensau, who had stepped into the youth service after the adult service concluded, it seemed God orchestrated everyone's activities across the church's gymnasium.

"I was there at the back praying and singing," she recalls. "All of a sudden, kids from all over the gym--who had all been doing different things and praying with different people--all converged on Tyler. Between 30 and 40 kids were crying out to God, and it was so loud. It was like a roar in that gym. And then the roar became silent. Joy Spencer is a very mild-mannered person in our church. And in a loud voice she said, 'Tyler, get up. God has healed you. In Jesus name, you're healed.' You could hear her throughout the whole gym."

Tyler was healed. He remembers the sensation he felt as he stood up from the altar.

"I got up and the pain was still there," he says. "But suddenly it just dropped. You know, there are weights that you can put on your legs or ankles when you exercise. It felt like somebody just pulled the Velcro straps back and let those weights fall off.

"I used to play catcher in baseball. I couldn't do any catcher's squatting for the past 2 years. So I went all the way down and it didn't hurt. Then I pulled my leg all the way up behind my back and it didn't hurt at all. I think it was Titus Lee who said, 'Your mom wants to see you.' I ran back there and gave her a hug, and for at least the next 20 minutes we had a joyous time of worship."

Fourteen years, thousands of prayers, but a divine appointment for healing on May 21, 1999.

"We've believed that God has a purpose for us walking through this," Mike says. "We've seen a level of depth and growth in Tyler because of what he's had to face. We pastored a little church of 80 people in Wamego, Kan., when we were in the midst of all of this. There were 7 children just in that small church that had orthopedic problems. And we had already been walking through this. As pastors, it equipped us better to minister to those people. Nobody likes to watch their children suffer, but we could see how God was using that all along and trusted Him for a final outcome."

"One thing that Tyler shared with me," Kerry says, "was that when he witnesses to his friends at school they'll say, 'How do you know God is real?' And he has always been able to say, 'Because God has saved me, I know He's there and He's real.' Now he can say, 'I know He's real because He healed my leg.'"

"I think it was an awesome thing for our youth group to experience. They're still talking about it. They see the difference in Tyler. They got to experience God's healing power firsthand. It was just an incredible move of God that touched them."

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