**Introduction**

**1-900 – MIRACLE**

**An Odyssey of God’s Amazing Grace**

**In a Broken World**

People have said “Abbie, you need to write a book.” This book is the outgrowth of a project I launched in 1995 to share the Gospel nationwide via a 1-900 phone line. I compiled a list of miracles that had occurred in my life, both before and after becoming a Christian, and was astonished to discover I had enough material for several months of programming. Once I had completed the scripts, I realized I had written what amounts to a partial autobiography, minus a few dark valleys that were definitely not miracles, but either the result of very bad decisions and/or testing times. Maybe that material is another book, but I doubt it!

There is only so much that can be covered in a four minute recorded phone call. Each call presents a short account of an actual miracle that occurred in my life, the lives of immediate family and a few close friends, plus some words of encouragement and brief Biblical answers to questions that naturally emerge from a discussion of miracles - questions like “Why do bad things happen to good people”?”, “Why are some not healed?” Why do we suffer, and why does God permit it?” “Why, if God is love, doesn’t He eliminate evil – now?” “What qualifies us for Heaven?” and more. Because of the almost breathtaking costs of the ongoing national advertising, I actually lost money, but I hope that in Heaven, I’ll meet souls who were touched by this brief ministry.

Because I anticipated different callers each week, some themes like God’s love for us, the need to surrender to the Lord, etc. were repeated week after week. Names of family and some friends have been changed to assure privacy. Just for fun I decided to expand some of the scripts filling in some details for “the rest of the story” and then realized the project was evolving into a book. I believe, from what I see in Scripture, that God’s declared will for us is the abundant life, and that includes health, healing, material provision and joy unspeakable and full of glory. But His permissive will for us also includes suffering and tribulation, testing and refining. His will also includes questions and mysteries that can’t possibly be answered until we get to Heaven, when we’ll see, not through a glass darkly, but as He sees,**1** and all tears will be wiped away.**2** Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered, and so do we.**3** I believe God calls us into a heavenly harmony with Himself, that balances joy and sorrow, gain and loss, life and death, warfare and rest. It’s easier to be an infant than a responsible adult, and we all prefer the mountaintops to the valleys, but God calls us to grow up and sometimes shut up - to be mature solders in His army and to share the Good News with others. Christianity isn’t for wimps, and so Jesus takes us when we’re wimpy and transforms us into warriors, and the fuel for that transformation is often tribulation and suffering; it’s the flip side of a miracle.

The Miracle Line reached out to the highways and byways, to the unchurched and to those who, for whatever reason, might never enter a church nor attend a Bible study. It offered hope and truth in the midst of the chaotic confusing and beguiling world of psychics, sex and lonely hearts appeals. Ads for “The Miracle Line - Be encouraged, there’s hope! Depressed? Confused? Need a miracle? Call 1-900 xxx-xxxx” appeared in the tabloids available in the grocery store checkout lanes and in other national publications, on the Internet and on radio. My hope was that many people would call as a lark, out of curiosity and get hooked by the Holy Spirit. I also offered a free 800# people could call for personal counseling and prayer.

This isn’t a book about me or any of those mentioned in the various stories; it’s a story about Him – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who is the same yesterday, today and forever.**4** Amen. Be encouraged – there’s hope!

1 I Corinthians 13:12

2 Revelation 21:4

3 Hebrews 5:8

4 Hebrews 13:8

 

Sometimes fantastic coincidence is a miracle in which God chooses to remain anonymous.

- Author Unknown -

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