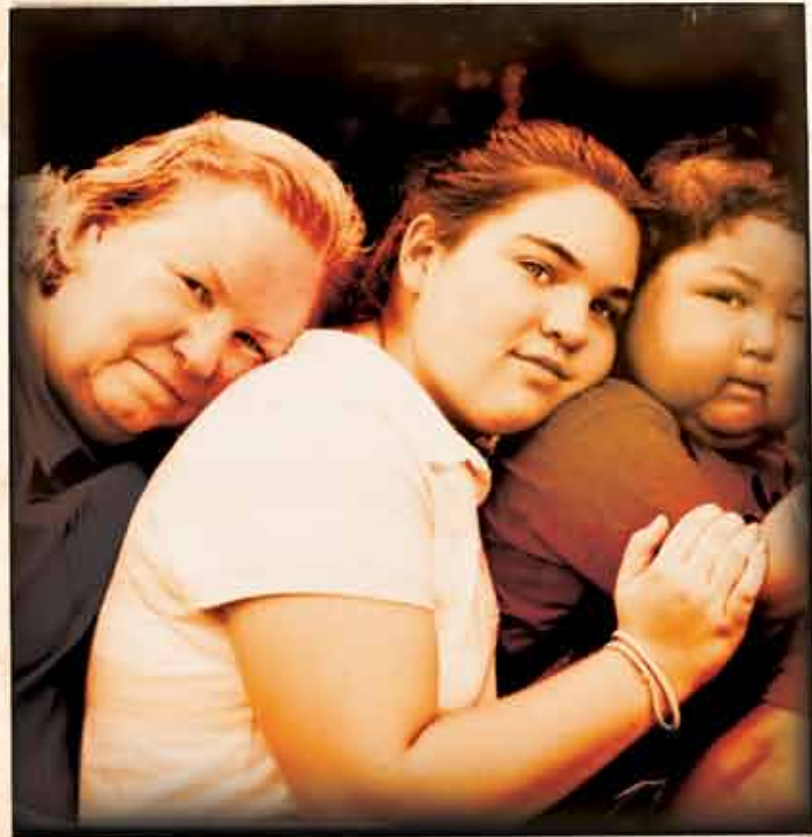
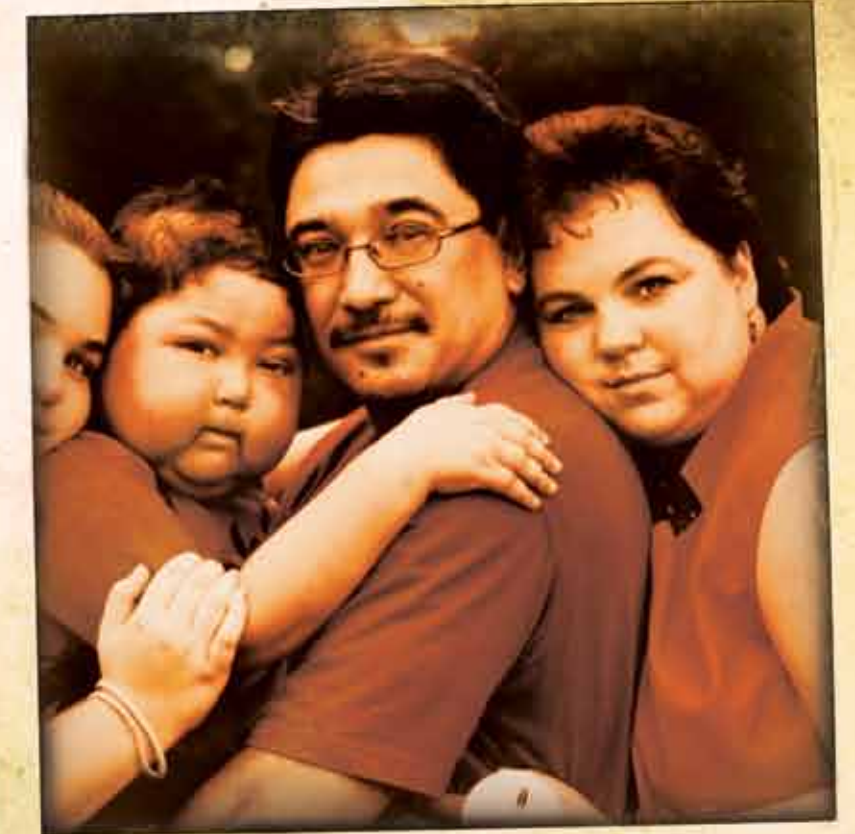


Job, their happy, energetic, 4-year-old, brown-haired and brown-eyed son had a highly deadly form of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. His chance of survival was only 10 percent without a bone marrow transplant.



Job



The kid has faith

By Jennifer McClure
in Bigelow, Ark.

Unexpectedly, the heart monitor fell from a steady beep to a frightening monotone signal. Nurses and doctors flooded into the room, surrounding the 9-year-old boy's hospital bed, and began CPR. But with each compression, the boy's body gave

way and lay deathly still.

As she often did, Glenda Osborne had stayed with grandson Job McCully that day — Oct. 24, 2007 — in his St. Louis Children's Hospital room. Job's father, Rob McCully, was nearby as well. But his mom, Tina McCully, and sister, Nicole, were back home, 360 miles

away, in Bigelow, Ark.

In the forested hills of central Arkansas about 16 miles southwest of Conway off a winding road lies the rural town of Bigelow (pop. 329). The first structure to greet visitors is a church — Bigelow Assembly of God.

The white building represents

for the McCully family not only a church family but also a Kingdom that God uses to show His love and care for His children.

"I've experienced a level of God's love through other people that I would have never experienced had I not gone through this," Rob says.

From messages left on Job's CaringBridge Web site to fundraisers at Bigelow AG and West County Assembly of God in St. Louis, the family says God has used others to express His love to them throughout their journey.

The road that would lead the McCully family to these experiences

and friendships began, to some extent, the summer of 2002.

Nicole was 7, and Job was 4. Rob had recently resigned the pastorate of a nearby country church, and the family joined Bigelow Assembly of God. On most accounts life was fairly normal, until an unimaginable diagnosis.

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Job—The kid has faith

Job, their happy, energetic, 4-year-old, brown-haired and brown-eyed son had a highly deadly form of ALL (acute lymphoblastic leukemia). His chance of survival was only 10 percent without a bone marrow transplant.

Chemotherapy and radiation treatments prepared Job's body for the needed transplant but also greatly weakened his immune system. At age 5, Job developed bronchiolitis obliterans, a rare lung disease that causes inflammatory obstruction of the

lungs' tiniest airways.

For several years, medication helped manage the disease, but by age 8, Job's lungs were only functioning at 40-50 percent. Job was sent to Texas in August 2006 and again in February 2007 to be evaluated for a lung transplant.

Both times he was considered too healthy to be added to the transplant list.

Just two weeks after his second evaluation, Job contracted a fungal pneumonia and went into respiratory failure. Now Job was too sick for a lung transplant.

"I'll never forget how frustrating that was," Tina recalls. "All I can say is God just held our hand and helped us through."

Doctors transferred Job to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where he spent two months on a ventilator.

Then in the midst of the crisis, with mounting medical bills, Rob, who had not yet completed his first 90 days at a construction company, was asked to resign because he did not yet qualify for any leave. In order for Tina to help care for Job, she took a leave of absence from her job as a senior financial analyst at a local telephone company.

Despite the unexpected twists in their story, the family continued to experience God's faithfulness.

"We went from two incomes to zero income, and we didn't get behind on anything," Tina says. "It was amazing and wonderful how God took care of us."

When the family left for Texas, Florence Rappold and Taneau Lipsmeyer, friends of the McCullys and members of Bigelow AG, decided to find some way to help.

"We knew the financial problems they were having, so we started having meals — mainly spaghetti and steak dinners — and fundraisers at the church," Taneau says. "Each time we raised exactly what they needed."

After two months in Texas, Job was transferred to St. Louis Children's Hospital. By May, he had regained enough strength to be added to the lung transplant waiting list.

Through it all, the McCully family clung to their faith in God.

"If God says He's going to bring somebody through, it doesn't matter how bad things look," Glenda says. "He wouldn't say it if it weren't true."

Job's name, in fact, has affirmed their faith.

"God put it on our hearts to name him Job," Tina says. "We were focused on the fact that Job was a godly man and we wanted our son to be godly, but when all of this started happening, I held onto that name as hope. It told me God knew what was coming down the road even though we didn't."

The separation

After spending the summer of 2007 in St. Louis, the time came for Nicole, who was 12 at the time, to return to Bigelow for the school year. Tina and Glenda remained with Job while Rob returned to Arkansas with Nicole.

In September, Job's health rapidly declined. At one point, doctors gave little hope that he would survive the weekend and asked Tina to sign a DNR (do not resuscitate) form. They knew if Job went into cardiac arrest, he would be removed from the lung transplant waiting list.

But Tina refused to sign.

"We did not know what the outcome was going to be," she says, "but we decided we were going to hold on to God no matter what happened — we were going to keep on fighting."

Job outlived the prognosis, and things were looking up. So Oct. 22, Rob flew to St. Louis to spend time with Job, and Tina flew home to be with Nicole. On Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007, Glenda called Tina from St. Louis. The doctors were encouraging family members to say their goodbyes.

Just three days earlier on Sunday, Tina read an account of Jesus raising a little girl from the dead and wrote in her journal: "God has supremacy over the grave." Later that morning, the

sermon at West County Assembly of God (where the family attended when in St. Louis) was on the same passage of Scripture.

"God knows what's coming down the road," Tina says, "and if you let Him, He'll prepare you for these things."

Now separated by 360 miles, Tina did the only thing in her power to do for her son — pray.

Friends Florence and Taneau met her at the church to join her in prayer that afternoon, and the Wednesday evening service was designated a special prayer time for Job.

Florence brought her laptop so they could stay in touch with Glenda in Job's hospital room via an online instant messenger.

At 8:39 p.m., the message came: Job's heart had stopped.

"We were just sitting there talking after we had been praying, and then Job coded," Taneau says. "I was falling apart. But Tina was sitting on the floor cross-legged, flipping through her Bible reading promises God had given her."

At 8:47 p.m., Glenda heard one nurse ask, "What's the time of death?" soon followed by another nurse saying, "I have a pulse."

Since Job's cardiac arrest was an immediate reaction to a drug pushed into his IV line, he was not removed from the transplant list.



Extreme blessing

When Job McCully was released from St. Louis Children's Hospital in March 2008, it had been more than a year since the McCully family had been together at home in Bigelow, Ark.

While away, they discovered dangerous amounts of mold had been growing in their home. A professional inspection confirmed the house to be unsafe for anyone, but especially for Job, whose fungal pneumonia in February 2007 had been contracted from the mold.

The family was given a place to stay rent free through the summer, but were unsure what they would do after that.

Months before the McCullys returned home, friends had begun the application process for submitting the family to ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. A committee of friends in Bigelow led an organized effort Feb. 11-21, 2008, to push the McCullys' story to the top of the thousands of recommendations the show receives each week.

And it worked.

"We were overwhelmed with how much support came in for this family," says Diane Korman, one of the show's producers. "In fact, at one point we had to ask supporters to spread the word that it was time to stop calling."

ABC contacted the McCully family and said they were in the final five. On

Aug. 14, Ty Pennington and the *Extreme Makeover* crew rolled up.

"God orchestrated the whole thing through the love of the community and our friends," Tina McCully says. "God sent Hollywood out here to build us a house."

In a week's time, 98 hours to be exact, a new energy-efficient, 4,400-square-foot all-brick home was built about 10 feet behind the location of the former 1,800-square-foot home.

The project's builder was Jack Wilson, president of Woodhaven Homes.

"It's the most energy-efficient home we've ever built," says Wilson, who attends First Assembly of God in North Little Rock, Ark.

The team used foam insulation treatment to help make the house airtight. An upgraded air and filtration system provides cleaner air for Job's lungs, and an open floor plan allows Job to easily navigate his home for as long as he is confined to a wheelchair.

Woodhaven Homes' regular subcontractors donated time, and their regular suppliers donated the materials. Throughout the course of the week, more than 500 volunteers worked around the clock to make the McCullys' home a reality.

"It was quite moving to see the people in the community come together and do all the things that they were

willing to do," Wilson says. "People who could hardly afford to donate time were still donating and being very helpful on the project."

Volunteers came from all over north and central Arkansas to take part in the project, some driving upwards of three hours after work, Taneau Lipsmeyer says.

"Anyone who's involved will never be the same; there's no way you could be," she says.

The McCullys' new home includes a two-car garage, dining room, kitchen, three living areas, three bathrooms and four bedrooms — 3,300 square feet of which is heated and cooled.

The episode featuring the home aired Oct. 26, 2008. Tina says the show has not only provided a beautiful blessing but also a wonderful opportunity to share their story with a large audience.

"The *Extreme Makeover* show has been a wonderful opportunity to get our story out there nationwide," she says. "Hopefully, it'll open some doors for us to share our testimony, giving them that hope of Christ that we've been able to experience." **tpe**

— Jennifer McClure

tpe *extra*

For a virtual tour of the home, visit tpe.ag.org.

E-mail your comments to tpe@ag.org.



(From left) Nicole visits Job in the hospital on Christmas Day in 2004. Job enjoys his pirate-themed room provided by Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

The sendoff

When it came time for Job and his family to return to Arkansas in March, West County AG prepared a special goodbye gift.

Youth pastor Todd Harris was among those from the church who would regularly visit Job. On several occasions Todd brought his son Drew to the hospital to play video games with Job.

With her husband and son getting to know the McCully family, Sherri Harris found herself reading every page of Job's CaringBridge Web site. In the end, she determined to organize a benefit for the family.

Making use of drama and music performances youth members had prepared for the district Fine Arts Festival, the benefit raised more

than \$18,000 for the McCully family.

The road ahead

The night Job received his new lungs he went into cardiac arrest and was revived a second time. Since then he's begun the slow road to recovery.

For a time, Job is confined to a wheelchair. But in the next year, Job has one objective: "To walk independently."

Spending a year in bed and taking anti-inflammatory steroids have caused Job to lose much of his muscle tone while inhibiting muscle development. Other side effects of treatments have included the development of diabetes as well as cataracts, which have been removed from both eyes.

Financially, Rob had worked part-time at Ruby Tuesday in

Job—The kid has faith

St. Louis to cover lodging costs. When they returned to Arkansas in March, he began working full time at Dassault Falcon Jet Corporation in Little Rock.

Due to Job's needs, Tina has not been able to return to full-time employment but is currently exploring part-time job opportunities, including substitute teaching and ministering in churches.

Considering everything Job has experienced, Rob couldn't be more proud.

"Job's the strongest individual I know," Rob says. "I'm very, very proud of Job, and I know his strength comes from God."

Though both Job McCully and his biblical namesake experienced great adversity, Alan Shelton, pastor of Bigelow AG, says the two Jobs share something greater.

"He's a young boy who really

has a heart for God," he says. "I think a lot of people after they know Job a little bit come away saying, 'If anything like that were to ever happen to me, I hope and pray my attitude would be like his.'"

At age 10, Job has fought numerous battles for his life. But ask this little boy about God, and you'll see there's not just a fighter inside, but also a little boy very much in awe of his God.

"God is amazing, and He is good," Job says, shifting his gaze away from his video game. "He has brought me through my whole life and has brought me back to life twice." **tpe**

JENNIFER McCLURE is assistant editor of *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*.

E-mail your comments to tpe@ag.org.

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To know God and be ready for heaven, follow these steps:

A. Admit you are a sinner.

"There is no one righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10,23 (See Romans 5:8; 6:23.)

Ask God's forgiveness and repent of your sins.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13 (See Acts 3:19.)

B. Believe in Jesus (put your trust in Him) as your only hope of salvation.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (See John 14:6.)

Become a child of God by receiving Christ.

"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (See Revelation 3:20.)

C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (See verse 10.)

For further help, contact the Assemblies of God church near you.

If you would like someone to pray with you concerning your decision to follow Jesus Christ, please contact the church indicated on the back cover or call:

1-800-4PRAYER

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