

# Miracles Happen!

As most of you recall, we had struggled for five or more years to have Robert Ogilvie who came into our lives in November, 1993. This year, without the help of any doctors, we became pregnant again and Michael McIntyre Hess came into our lives on December. We believe that our family is now complete as two children were our fondest hope. Two sons and two pregnancies are our limit! While it was difficult for Mary Beth to be pregnant with Robert around, it was probably easier now than later, and the two boys are close enough in age that we hope that they can be playmates for each other. The Lord certainly moves in wondrous and mysterious ways!

We are getting ahead of ourselves, but this news overshadows all else in our lives. Our first year with Robert has been truly wonderful! He is a lovable and loving little guy and it is great to watch him grow. He is no longer our "baby" but an individual, little boy.

Our greatest trauma of the year centered around Robert. In May we discovered that he had a lump in his leg. At first it was diagnosed as a hernia, but it turned out to be an aneurysm in his left leg/groin area. The story goes something like this...

On Friday, April 29, Mary Beth took Robert to the doctor since he had his first cold and we wanted to get his ears checked before the weekend. During the visit, the doctor decided to give him a routine exam since Robert was approaching his sixth month. Dr. Feuille found a lump in Robert's left groin and was pretty sure it was a hernia—common for boys, but at a not so common site.

Dr. Feuille immediately called a surgeon at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles and arranged with Dr. Atkinson for us to take Robert down that same morning. Dr. Atkinson also agreed it was a hernia, and surgery was set for Monday, May 9. However, on the evening of Wednesday, May 4, we noticed the lump had changed and was pulsating, so we called the surgeon at home that same evening. Dr. Atkinson asked us to bring Robert in first thing the next morning. An ultrasound was done. (By the way, it's not easy keeping a six month old still for 40 minutes! Mary Beth thinks the staff really appreciated her singing of nursery rhymes!) Everyone agreed the lump was an aneurysm and not a hernia, so surgery was scheduled for the next morning, Friday. Dr. Atkinson told Mary Beth if the lump changed or swelled, to apply pressure and call 911. Needless to say, we were up often that night to check on Robert, but fortunately, nothing happened.

The surgery lasted 5 1/2 hours. A vein had to be removed from his right leg to replace the artery in his left leg. He has a scar on his left leg almost down to his knee and one on his right leg which is half as long. Robert was in the hospital for three days, so we spent our first Mother's Day Weekend in the hospital—a Mother's Day we'll never forget! He seems fine now, but the doctor wants to keep an eye on him through his crawling and walking stages.

The six-month checkup was very positive and good! Robert is a resilient little guy who seemed his happy little self only a couple of days after surgery. It did bother him to play lying flat on the floor for a couple of weeks though, and his sleeping pattern during the night changed to waking up more during the night.

Robert is growing well despite food allergies which cause eczema. Right now he is limited to a hypoallergenic formula and a few vegetables. He crawls around like mad, gets into everything, and we expect him to walk without holding on any day now.

Pregnancy and an infant cut down on our exploration and adventures, but we still managed to have some visitors and take a few trips. Margaret and John (Mary Beth's Mother and Brother) visited us for last Christmas. Robert was baptized at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in La Crescenta on December 26th, 1993, in an antique christening gown from Mary Beth's family and we used some of the Jordan River water that Richard brought back from one of his trips to Israel a couple of years ago. Both Margaret and John were here for this wonderful event.

In February, we took Robert to Cambria for his first outing. This was during the time we were still trying to figure out his allergies and he got sick so we came home early. It became obvious that the '79 Jeep Grand Wagoneer was going to be pretty crowded with three people in it and all of our junk so we started thinking about buying a replacement for our old friend.

In March, Margaret and John visited us for a while. They had a lot of fun getting to know Robert better.

Mary Beth and Robert attended several infant classes and enjoyed meeting other mothers and infants. Mary Beth has also been in frequent contact with Diane and Bob Killgore, our friends who had triplet boys four years ago. Diane has been a great help to us with advice and useful items for Robert!

Mary Beth did not know why she was having cramps on Mother's Day at Children's Hospital, but on May 17th we saw a healthy pulse on the ultrasound at Dr. Marrs's office. Although he had nothing to do with this pregnancy, Dr. Marrs still gave us the usual "graduation" gifts! We asked him to do the ultrasound at six weeks because we had had so many problems in the past and he knew our history.

Victor Phaneuf (Richard's cousin from Rhode Island) was in town for a seminar and visited us Sunday May 22nd for an afternoon of chatting and dinner.

On the Memorial Day weekend we returned to Cambria with much better results and we all had a good time.

On June 15th, as Richard was driving back from a meeting in Hollywood, the Jeep's transfer case's high range gave out and he had to drive home at 30 mph maximum! We think the Jeep knew that the next day we were to pick up our brand new 1994 Chevrolet Suburban. We had struggled as to what to buy for several years, and finally decided that the looks of the new Suburban were a great improvement and

less truck-like. It was the only vehicle that was larger than our Jeep that also was a true off-road, four-wheel-drive vehicle. This has three rows of seats, all facing forward, and more cargo room seating eight than our Jeep did seating five. The rear seat is easily removed and we can still seat five with more cargo room than the Jeep had just seating two. It is silver on top and on the lower sides, with dark teal blue accent paint on the sides. The interior is gray. Richard installed a CB and weather radio to help on long trips, and Richard's Christmas toy is a Global Positioning System satellite navigation receiver. It is amazing, Richard started looking for a good compass and altimeter and found he could get the GPS for the same money.

On the Fourth of July weekend, we broke the Suburban in on yet another trip to Cambria. Robert is actually starting to like these trips! We repeated this on the Labor Day weekend as well. In mid-July, a group of us who met at St. Mark's Church had our annual pool party and now three of the four couples have babies, and Richard was able to help the fourth couple by taking pictures for their adoption letter. They were pleased with the results of his work.

At the end of October, Richard and Robert took a four-day trip to Mono Lake and Yosemite to meet some of Richard's friends from the CompuServe Photography Forum. This was Robert's first trip to a National Park (Yosemite) and a State Park (Bodie Historic Site). We drove about 50 miles of dirt roads and both the guys had a ball, and the Suburban performed very well!

In October, Ian Kerr, Susi Vayne, and David Kerr-Vayne from Toronto visited for an evening and it was great to see them. Richard's Aunt Chris and Uncle Don also visited for an afternoon as they were in San Diego for a convention and had a free day, so they flew up to visit us. We were very honored and it was great to see them and to have them meet Mary Beth and Robert.

Margaret came to visit and help out a week before [US] Thanksgiving and will be staying through the end of January. John came for a week at that time as well and will be taking the train to join us for two weeks at Christmas. On the November trip, he brought us a copy of his recent book, *Children of Peace* which is a history of "one of the most significant and least-studied religious sects in English-speaking Canada." David Willson founded this sect when he left the Society of Friends. Perhaps best known as the builder of the 1825 Sharon, Ontario, Temple, the Children of Peace "tried to provide a model for a new church where Christians and Jews would both belong."

We apologize for not sending a true Christmas card, but with all the other things happening in our lives we needed to simplify. We send our warmest greetings to you and wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy and happy New Year!

Mary Beth, Richard, Robert, and Michael  
Christmas, 1994