

A serious accident dramatically changed the lives of two talented musicians.

by WANDA GRIFFITH

A GREAT MUSICAL SCORE contains the resonant notes of life. For Pam and Phil Morgan those notes resounded on a lonely highway on June 4, 2000.

It had been an exhausting weekend of ministry. Following a church service in Merwin, Missouri, Pam buckled 5-year-old Kayla and 21-month Alisha into their car seats to head for their next appointment. The next thing Pam remembers was the chopping sound of the helicopter flying her to Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

When she woke up in the intensive care unit, she realized this was not just a bad dream. Phil had fallen asleep at the wheel, and their conversion van had drifted off the road, hitting a bridge guardrail at 70 miles an hour. Phil's only injury was a broken collarbone from the seat belt, and both of their girls had



Phil and Pam Morgan

GOTTA KEEP WALKIN'

minor cuts and bruises. Phil immediately began a prayer chain from their Web site that soon circled the globe.

The Miracles

"The fact that I was still alive and my family walked away with no serious injuries was the first of many miracles," said Pam. She described how she was thrown out the rear left window as the van skidded to a halt across the bridge, just short of plummeting into the water. The trailer in tow broke loose and flipped end over end, spilling speakers and musical equipment all over the highway. Another miracle was that Pam was not crushed by all the flying debris.

The passengers in the first four cars that stopped to help them included a

nurse, a doctor, a respiratory therapist and an off-duty police officer. Without a doubt, Pam believes God placed these people in her life at the exact moment she needed them—miracle number three.

"At first the doctors were not sure I would survive the trauma my body sustained. My left arm and left ear were almost torn from my body, and the skin on the left side of my face was ripped from the bone. Then came the horrifying news: An MRI revealed I had sustained a complete spinal cord injury—paralyzed from the chest down. The doctors said I would never walk or use my hands again."

The devastating diagnosis left Pam with questions, but not without hope. Phil's strong faith kept reminding her of the miracles God had already performed by saving

her life, keeping her from having internal injuries, and protecting her brain from injury. "I did not even chip a tooth," Pam added. "And Phil was my hero. He kept telling me, 'You may not be able to move anything right now, but don't worry, you will.' His comedy plus his love and devotion were a big part of my recovery."

The Healing

In less than a month, while still in the hospital, Pam noticed a slight movement in her left big toe. It wasn't much, but it was a beginning. During the following months, the doctors were amazed as feeling and mobility returned to Pam's body. The struggle was difficult, but on June 4, 2001, exactly one year from the date of the crash, Phil and Pam *walked* into a stu-

dio in Nashville to record the music Phil had written since the accident for a project appropriately titled *Living Proof*. The words of one of Phil's newest songs on their current CD, *Gotta Keep Walkin'*, describe how he and Pam continue to walk and experience God's miracles:

*Miracles still happen every day,
They show up in the most amazing ways.
If you choose to see life through the
simple eyes of faith,
Miracles still happen every day.*

The Evolving Ministry

Pam and Phil Morgan met in high school when Phil was writing and performing country music. Both had grown up in church. When Pam saw Phil's unusual ability to put emotion into music with words that tugged at people's heartstrings, she knew God could use Phil's talents for His glory.

After dating for five years, Phil and Pam married when they were 22 years old. Pam was working at an insurance company, and Phil had started his own advertising company. They see now how Phil's hands-on experience in graphic design and Pam's training in a corporate environment were part of God's plan to hone the skills they would need later in their music ministry.

Phil started out playing in a country band in the bar scene. They both knew this was not the environment God wanted for them. Then God opened a door for Phil to become involved in the Family Opry Show. Through that experience, Phil began writing gospel music with a country overtone. He was given the opportunity to perform some of his original songs in the gospel segment of the show. It was a success.

In 1996 Phil and Pam recorded their first album, which included 10 of Phil's original Christian songs. Singing at ice cream socials and other functions gave them the start they needed to minister in different churches. They believed God was calling them to be a witness through Phil's music. "We made a commitment to God that if He would open the doors, we would become transparent to our audience," Pam said.



MIRACULOUS RECOVERY: Pam Morgan goes from hospital bed to wheelchair to walking on her own.

The Future

This article is not as much about Pam's accident, her healing and recovery, however, as it is about Pam's certainty that what happened to her was an orchestration of God-ordained notes that when joined together form an anthem of her future.

Looking back, it is interesting to see how God worked out all the things they had prayed for; they just had to trust that His way was best. Since the accident, Phil and Pam reach people on so many more levels than before. They earnestly believe you only earn the right to minister to others about suffering and difficulty when you have experienced them yourself. They have shared their testimony on several television shows, including the *Montel Show*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and the *700 Club*, and Pam is in the process of writing a book.

Pam believes God planned for her to marry Phil. The scripture from Jeremiah 1:5 is dear to her: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were

born I set you apart" (NIV). Because both sets of parents were older when Phil and Pam were born (only six weeks apart), both births could definitely be considered a miracle at conception.

The Next Step

Phil and Pam are now scheduling through the end of 2006 with "Gotta Keep Walkin'" ministry events, which focus on having a daily vibrant walk with Jesus. Along with performing Phil's original music, they incorporate testimonies, stories and video presentations. They also have a devotional ministry that offers encouraging messages through e-mail approximately three times each month. For more information on their ministry, go to www.philandpammorgan.com. ☪



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