



Miracles

Our twins Sophie and Matthew were born on the 3rd October 2005. Matthew developed normally while Sophie continued to have problems and did not progress like Matthew. It was difficult not knowing what was wrong with Sophie. Finally, when they were 13 months old, Sophie was diagnosed with Maroteaux-Lamy Syndrome or Mucopolysaccharidosis Type VI (MPS VI).

Although the news could have been better, it was a relief to know what we were dealing with, what the future may hold for Sophie; that there was treatment available for her, and that there were others in the world with her condition.

The difficult part to deal with was when we were told that her treatment was going to cost about \$200,000 per year and that the government would not pay for it. Our minds raced day and night, trying to think of how we were going to raise this money. I soon realised that we could not do it ourselves and that it was going to be near impossible to do it by man alone. I prayed to God every day asking Him to help us and asked the Apostle to carry out laying-on-of-hands with other church officers.

I also asked the Evangelist in our church at Nundah to pray for us. Other communities had also prayed for us, as did many other Christian churches in my local area of Springfield Lakes. The strength and unity of the Christian community was overwhelming, but very comforting.

A month after the laying-on-of-hands was undertaken, Sophie nearly died as a result of the way we had positioned her in the car and her floppy neck (due to having cartilage instead of bone at the C1 and C2 level as well as compression of her spine). My husband Wayne and I carried out mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and then rushed her to hospital via ambulance. I remember when I got her out of the car and realised she wasn't breathing, I thought she was gone. I remember saying to God "You can't take her now. Not like this. I'm not ready".

I have realized since then that I don't think that you can ever be ready as a parent.

Two weeks later, as a result of this incident, Sophie had her neck operation.



This involved bone grafting from her ribs and fusing it in her neck. She was then required to wear a halo in order to keep her neck and head straight while her neck fused. After six months, her neck had only slightly fused. She then underwent a second bone fusion with the graft taken from her left tibia. After a further six months, the bones had fused.

On 16 January 2008, her halo was removed. This is a date we will never forget!

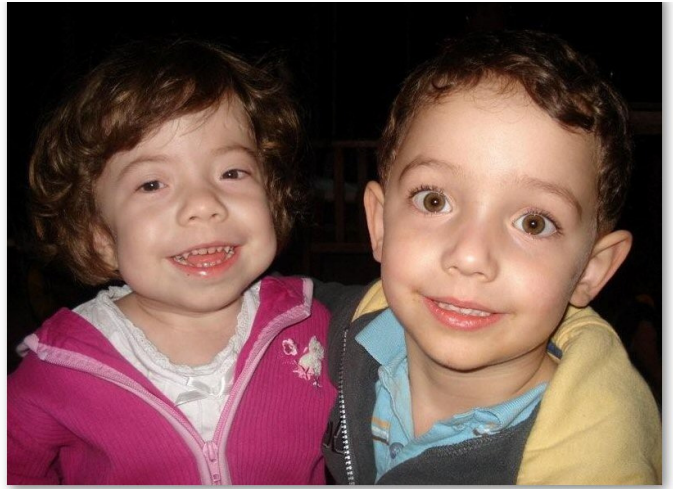
I always knew I was in God's good hands and that He would look after us. However, I didn't realize He was going to look after us so well! In April 2007, we received the good news that the State Government was going to pay for Sophie's treatment. This was something that had not been done in any other state in Australia. Further, in the Budget in 2008, we found out that the Federal Government had approved payment of Sophie's treatment and all other people in Australia with MPS VI.

This was not expected by our Doctors or even our local Federal Member who had been lobbying for us.

DO Happen!

This to me proves that God was looking after us and that miracles do happen if you pray to God and believe in Him.

Sophie started her enzyme replacement treatment (ERT) on 20 June 2008. At treatment number 8, she had an anaphylactic reaction to her drug. She nearly died and ended up in intensive care. With Sophie nearly having died the few times mentioned, as well as a few other times, I think that God is watching over her. Since her reaction, Sophie's treatment is conducted over a 7 hour period (rather than the previous 4 hours) with her having to have antihistamines and steroids before and after. Her body has been tolerating this new regime a lot better.



The main benefit we have seen from Sophie starting treatment is her increased energy which has resulted in her increased strength (to start walking) and her increased activity levels and alertness (i.e. more social, communicative and boisterous). She is now taking about 10 steps on her own.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for keeping us in their prayers.

Mandy Nance, Queensland

*The love of our Lord is a comforting thing,
With the peace and infinite joy it can bring,
It can calm all our fears and quiet our pain,
Restore all our hopes and renew faith
again.*

*God's love knows no boundaries,
encompasses all;
Commoners, kings, the great and the small,
And despite all our weaknesses and
misguided ways,
God offers us love, and will, all our days.*



“I am realistic - I expect miracles.”
Wayne Dyer

