

There's Nothing

JESUS

Can't Heal

Bernice Feagins

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Printed in the United States of America

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Introduction



My name is Bernice Marguerite Feagins. I served my country in the United States Army for twenty-seven years. In 2004, I developed spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA) symptoms, a progressive medical condition for which there is no cure.

I am writing this book to share the hardships, struggles, disappointments, obstacles, severe pain, and triumphs this neurological medical condition brings. My heart broke when I developed symptoms of SCA. I became severely depressed and saturated with negative thoughts about my future. Many of my family members have been diagnosed with this medical condition, so I knew what was to come. I knew it would rob me of my balance, coordination, fine motor skills, driving and writing abilities, cognitive function, and vision. The continual negative thoughts of being in

a wheelchair for the rest of my life and residing permanently in a nursing home destroyed my happiness and crushed my hope. SCA doesn't allow you to carry groceries to your apartment, take out the trash, walk up a curb, drive, talk without slurring your speech, write, or cook. These negative thoughts led to severe depression.

I was given the nickname "Sergeant Drunk" at my job because I became clumsy and unsteady in all my physical movements, and my speech was always slurred. I was a recruiter for the US Army, so having this condition posed many problems because the job required driving the applicants to different locations, giving presentations in front of large groups of people, walking a significant amount, and filling out important documents. An incurable medical condition in the Army leads to a medical discharge. Therefore, I became a compulsive liar and tried to cover my medical condition because I didn't want to be discharged as my son and mother depended on me financially.

I was harassed and bullied by other drivers because my driving had become extremely dangerous. My poor balance made it unsafe for me to drive faster than thirty miles per hour. I would slam on the brakes instead of

slowing down gradually. I couldn't go in the middle lane because the vehicle would sway left or right with any slight movement. Due to my dangerous driving skills, the driving occupational therapist requested that my driver's license be suspended. I would stagger while walking and bump into others; my problems with writing, speech, driving, and vision convinced me that my life was over. The medical community told me that my condition would only get worse, and I knew they were right—I have family members who live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Before being diagnosed with SCA by a neurologist at a military hospital, I was taken off recruiting duties because I received many complaints from coworkers, potential recruits, school officials, students at the local high schools, and family members of the recruits.

My Company Commander assigned me to the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) for injured and wounded soldiers. I met Dr. Swaee, my primary care doctor, on the first day. While I was discussing my care plan, he revealed that my incurable medical condition could be "healed" by a higher power. I couldn't believe that he was making such a bold and powerful statement. The neurologist, other medical professionals, and the medical

books and articles on SCA said spinocerebellar ataxia has no cure. Because it is a progressive condition, your symptoms will continually worsen. I knew this to be true because I had witnessed my family members diagnosed with this condition degenerate gradually.

I ran home to research this “higher power.” All the search engine results said, “Jesus.” I didn’t know much about Jesus before this. I wasn’t an atheist, but I didn’t see the benefit of knowing much about God or any other spiritual leader. I was oblivious to religion. So, I read every article about Jesus and watched hundreds of YouTube videos about the power of Jesus and his ability to save, deliver, and heal. I didn’t know anything about being saved or delivered; I just wanted to know about healing. One article suggested that I say the “Salvation Prayer” for Jesus to work in my life. I said the Salvation Prayer like this, “Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust you and follow you as my Lord and Savior.”

After saying the prayer, I immediately felt a tickle in my heart. I laughed uncontrollably for several minutes. I couldn’t understand why I was

laughing so hard. Looking back, I realize now what was happening—Jesus was injecting me with unspeakable joy, peace, and hope. Saying the Salvation Prayer allowed Jesus to clean up my sinful nature, give me hope, and heal me. Developing a relationship with Jesus changed my life. Jesus restored my balance, coordination, speech, handwriting, eyesight, and driving skills. My primary care physician released me from the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) to drive eighteen-wheeler trucks for the Recruiting Command. In my first year, I became the Truck Driver of the Year and public speaker for the Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program. I received my bachelor’s and master’s degrees and am currently working on my doctorate.

Being diagnosed with SCA and experiencing all the symptoms of that condition for five years was the best thing that ever happened to me. I never imagined that something so horrible and dangerous could make me grateful. This medical condition has strengthened me in so many ways. I have learned things about myself that I would not have known if I hadn’t experienced this pain and suffering in my life. This medical hardship put me on the path to find Jesus and develop friendships, allowing me to witness

my strengths. Just the thought of driving the biggest truck in the world, giving classes to thousands of soldiers, being the Truck Driver of the Year, and getting my academic degrees was mind-blowing. Spinocerebellar ataxia allowed me to accomplish those things.

I want to encourage everyone reading this book to find hope and happiness in Jesus. Hope extinguishes the spirit of fear and anxiety. Jesus gives peace, hope, unspeakable joy, and salvation to all who believe in Him. Isaiah 40:31 (KJV) reminds us: “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.” Life comes with many storms, trails, tribulations, difficulties, and hardships.

For years, I did not know I had hope. So, I want to encourage my readers to have hope in the Lord. You may be thinking, What is hope in the Lord? Hope in the Lord means that despite what you are facing—whether it’s suicidal thoughts, abuse, anxiety, fear, or rejection, feeling gloomy, unhappy, down in the dumps, broken-hearted, lonely, despondent, hopeless, facing unemployment, harassment, imprisonment, insurmountable debt, depression, unhealthy relationships, a failed marriage, or uncontrollable

children, losing a loved one, suffering from an incurable medical condition, severe pain, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, leukemia, infertility, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, lupus, alcoholism, drug addiction, porn addiction or surviving natural catastrophes like Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Harvey—when you are at the end of the rope, the Lord will strengthen you and be an ever-present help in need. Jesus is the only one who can bring you out of darkness, heal your broken heart, help your failing marriage, comfort you during hard times, and help you be victorious. If you put your hope in the Lord, nothing in life will cause you any grief or suffering. Any sickness, storm, trial, or tribulation will be met with the Lord's peace, transcending all understanding. God has a plan for you. Trust me—I know. If God had a plan for someone like me, who ignored Him for years and could fill up a book about her sinful nature, He has a plan for you. Jesus is the only one who has the power to bring sunshine into your life. He is the only one who can heal incurable medical conditions, bring hope into a hopeless situation, give you the strength to end your drug addiction or any other addictions, and restore your relationships, finances, and health. Jesus is the answer to a life full of hope and happiness. Your hardships, struggles,

obstacles, and storms are all blessings in disguise. I encourage everyone to develop a relationship with Jesus. I love you and want you to live a happy, hopeful, healthy, and prosperous life. If you already have a relationship with Jesus, continue to trust in Him and keep the faith.