

Dear Matthew,

I am the mother of Robert and I wanted to write this note to explain personally what impact your music has had in my life recently. I love that you are encouraging people to share our stories. It is incredibly powerful to share how God is at work in unique ways and I find it challenging to summarize so that this letter would not be too long, but here is a short version of my attempt to share part of my story.

I became a Christian at a young age and I love music so Christian music has always spoken to my heart. A heart that was trying desperately from a young age to fill the gaping void of acceptance. Striving to keep my world safe, predictable and manageable I married my high school sweetheart at a young age. Difficulty struck the hardest when I faced infertility. However, I truly believed God was blessing me abundantly when I got pregnant with triplets.

Then November 24, 2000 came and my body went into labor only halfway through my pregnancy. My son, Jacob, was born halfway through the pregnancy, fully formed, and a beating heart, but with lungs too early to survive. He lived in our hospital room for 6 hours. Meanwhile, we awaited the delivery of our other two babies, as doctors said it would be impossible for them to survive. But I held on to the confident faith I believed that "with God all things are possible." So we begged God. We pleaded with God to do the impossible, to miraculously spare the lives of our other two babies. And God granted the impossible. Despite all medical understanding, days after Jacob's birth I was placed in an inpatient room. Every day I lived on edge. Unsure if they'd make it a few more weeks so maybe they could have viable lungs. Again I pleaded with God for the impossible. And 5 weeks after Jacob's delivery, God chose for our other two babies to be born. They were micro preemies but they had a chance. Robert James was born weighing 1 pound 7 oz and Tiffani Faye was born weighing 1 pound 10 oz. Their new home became the NICU.



Both babies had their own challenges just to survive. Tiffani had bleeding in her lungs and Robert was diagnosed with a severe brain hemorrhage that doctors said he received when his identical twin, Jacob, was born 5 weeks prior. The doctors told us to say goodbye to both of our babies, as they may not survive the night. And said that if Robert does survive, he would be severely handicap, unable to talk, walk, eat, drink. He would be fully relying on our care for his everyday life.



Devastated and yet fully determined to give our children every chance at life, we pressed on. Meanwhile, again I prayed for the impossible - for God to heal our babies and for me to have what I needed for whatever the future would hold.

God again had done the impossible, our babies came home from the NICU at about 3 months old. Tiffani fully recovered from her lung bleed. At 6 months old Robert was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. And yet God did the miraculous - Robert could eat and drink and sure enough as time went by he started talking and eventually started to walk!

I'm going to jump ahead to current day. A few years ago the reality of the difficulties in my marriage started to become clearer to me. It was a hard, lonely place to accept. In the summer of 2019 I was searching for comfort when I came across your song, "The God Who Stays." These were God's words to me, "I will never leave you."

That same year we were faced with the reality that Robert would need one more major orthopedic surgery. Then Covid hit and made the expectation for surgery even harder as we had to stay healthy so he could get the surgery. The withdrawal into an already difficult home brought an additional level of strain and hard but one song that kept our spirits light was "Quarantine Life." Robert played it on repeat for months. It made us smile amidst all the crazy going on around us. Plus that summer "Walking Miracles" became our theme song! This was a song for the next time of pleading with God for the impossible. We could go forward into the scary and unknowns because God was reminding us that He began a good work in sparing Robert's life and that miraculous work isn't done.

In September 2020 both of Robert's legs were operated on as scheduled. It was an intense surgery and one that his body would end up not responding very well and led to 12 weeks of inpatient rehab. We spent September through December of 2020 in the hospital together and the hospital staff became our family. As I helped Robert physically and emotionally to recover, every day was difficult. Then in November of 2020 Robert excitedly announced to me that you released a thanksgiving song! Robert had to relearn how to walk and every single day we listened to that song which literally helped him take steps! Even on Thanksgiving day, spent in the hospital, we walked in the hospital hallway playing "Gobble Gobble" for all to hear and passing out cookies. Meanwhile he'd mix in "Quarantine Life", singing loudly as he walked at a snail's pace past other patients and staff, smiling all the while, fully expecting others to love his zest for life. And they all did! He became dubbed the "Mayor of 3 West."



After discharge in December 2020 the months ahead were increasingly difficult as he had another medical issue that arose and caused severe set-backs. And then after months of him struggling to walk, we found out in April of 2021 that his right femur wasn't healing from the surgery and that he would need a critical repair surgery for the unhealed right femur. We headed into the major revision surgery in September 2021.

This second surgery led to another round of difficult recovery. He spent another 8 weeks in the hospital for inpatient rehab which meant another thanksgiving in the hospital. And can you guess what song he played on repeat again? Yes, "Gobble, Gobble." We arrived home that round of therapy just 2 days before Christmas last year.

The months after coming home, at the beginning of 2022, were spent again every day driving to the hospital for therapies. And progress seemed very slow and at times almost non-existent. In April it was confirmed that again the right femur had not healed from this surgery. This explained the pain and lack of ability he had in his leg but it was again deeply discouraging news. However, the

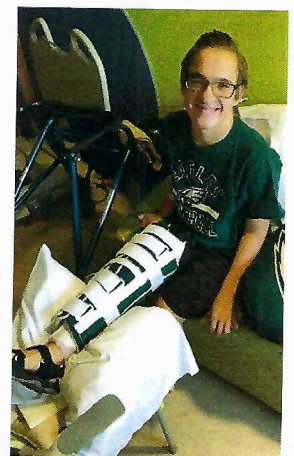


highlight of April 2022 is when we went to your concert at Camp Hill, PA. You sang all of Robert's favorite songs, and he also met your dad who was such an encouragement to him. That concert was the night before your release of the song "Wonderful Life." You sang it for us that night and shared it livestream with the world. Again God used your song to speak to the hard of life I was personally walking through and reminded me of all the ways it is still a wonderful life, even amidst all the hard. It gave me renewed hope because "this life ain't all there is!"

In May of 2022 we were told again that femur surgery was inevitable. And that his surgeon at the Children's hospital did not feel capable of handling another revision surgery. So he referred us to Yale Hospital, about 4 hours away from our home in PA. Feeling so much concern as September approached and Robert would need his 3rd surgery on this leg in just 2 years, your song "How Good of God" was released. It was a reminder that God is good in all of life, joys and hardship. He is still good.

For the past year and a half God has been leading me through the most heartbreaking decision within my marriage and showing me the truth of my life that has been ravaged with abuse. And yet He is empowering me to use what I'm learning to become strong and face the deep wounds so that I can find healing. "Truth Be Told" is a song that speaks to my healing this year to walk through the real, raw hard and be honest with myself and others of this truth. And all along I continue to plead with God for the impossible. For restoration in my marriage. For the brokenness within our home to be used for His glory.

In September 2022 the surgery at Yale was hard as we were further away from home and yet God is at work! After the surgery to put a 9 inch stainless steel nail up through Robert's femur and interlocking screws to secure it, the doctor prepared us for his body to potentially respond with



much pain and discomfort. I went into this so unsure if Robert would even ever regain the ability to walk. Here's what's amazing, God did the impossible - Robert has not had pain in that right femur since the day of surgery. He is walking in his walker and has been ever since 2 days after that surgery. God is doing the impossible! We are still praying for the bone to heal completely, but Robert is walking again! That in and of itself is the impossible!!

We have been able, through this whole journey, to point people to Jesus. Robert has a joy that cannot be explained by this world. He has impacted so many people during his hospital stays. From doctors to nurses, security guards, housekeeping staff, therapists and cafeteria workers, Robert's light has shown brightly. People see a difference in him. Despite such deep hard, Jesus gives him joy. We've been given a mission field. Through all that is in my story, failures and triumphs, it is a mission field I could never have expected. My desire is to keep living out this story to bring glory to God alone. And there is where your "My Story Your Glory" album has blessed me. So many of the songs are my theme. I stood on the shore of NJ beach in September of this year singing "What a Day"! I look forward to the day I will see Jesus face to face and all this sorrow will be gone. But until then I will remember that God has done the impossible so many times and He's not done with me yet. I continue to hold on to the truths you sing about. Because we truly are living, breathing, walking miracles!

May God richly bless you and the eternal work you are doing for Him. It matters. It's making a difference in people's lives. So press on, brother. And know we are cheering you on to the glory of God!

Your friend and sister in Christ,

Jennifer

"I waited patiently for the LORD to help me,
and he turned to me and heard my cry.
² He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire.
He set my feet on solid ground
and steadied me as I walked along.
³ He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.
They will put their trust in the LORD."

Psalm 40:1-3

