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Jensen Family's Miracle Featured on Local News

Written by Disciples Today — Tuesday, 14 April 2015

Editor's note: Jake and Nancy Jensen lead the Five Valleys Church of Christ in Missoula, Montana. Their family's story was recently featured by Kare11, a news station in Minnesota. Watch the video coverage here.

Experimental surgery changes man's life



MINNEAPOLIS — Seventeen years ago Friday the Jensen family added a third child. "My wife and I adopted Jesse when he was five," Jake Jensen explained talking about his son.

Jesse, the brown eyed boy had a smile that melted your heart, but just two years later it was wiped away by something sinister.

"He came down with an incredible case of the hiccups that would not stop," Jake said. For two weeks those hiccups went strong until a doctor confirmed the problem was much bigger, Jesse had severe Tourette syndrome.

"Lots of compassionate doctors were just trying to stop this monster in his body that had taken over," Nancy Jensen, Jesse's mother, explained. For a decade the tics became so violent in Jesse he nearly broke his neck when he convulsed.

"I couldn't do all of the things a normal teen could do, so it was definitely hard," Jesse recalled of that time; he is now 22-years-old.

Hope came when the family learned the Mayo Clinic performed a high risk experimental surgery, deep brain stimulation. Jesse knew if he wanted to live, he would risk dying he said, and do it. "I was just tired of the way I was living," Jesse said.

His family was scared, but on his side. "We as a family decided we would follow Jesse. We didn't feel like we had the right to say no," Nancy said.

In February of 2010 Jesse got that surgery and to say it was a success would be an understatement. He's tic-free.

Implanted in his chest is a Medtronic device that operates 24-7, stimulating his brain to stop the tics.

He's lost nearly 100 pounds, is off all medication, as fit as a fiddle and you would never know his body once betrayed him. He now works full-time and lives like he didn't get the chance to his entire childhood.

"If you have a chance to go somewhere, you might as well try and take it, even if it's hard," Jesse said with a smile.

Jesse's mom co-authored a book about her family's experience called Resurrected Mind. It is available on Amazon.

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  Teachers Service Team — Monday, April 6, 2015
  The Teachers Service Team met in Dallas the last several days of March to have a day of overlapping discussion between our service teams on five important topics: global missions, unity, events, the next...

- ***SURGE Singles Missions Plans Trip to Brazil in October 2015!***
  Chad Winchell, Fairfax, VA — Monday, 13 April 2015
  Single brothers and sisters! SURGE is looking for adventurous, fun-loving disciples that would be interesting in traveling to three cities in Brazil to...

- ***HOPE worldwide Volunteers Mobilizing After Tornados Hit Illinois***
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- ***Douglas Jacoby on Judaism: Revolutionary Truths!***
  Douglas Jacoby, Atlanta, GA — Thursday, 09 April 2015
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• UPCOMING EVENTS

Shine! European Arts Gathering
Bracknell, Berkshire England
May 2-3, 2015

Festival de las Americas 2015
Los Angeles, CA, USA
May 22-24, 2015

2015 Southeast Conference
Greenvilla, South Carolina, USA
September 4-6, 2015

ICOC Delegates Meeting
Montego Bay, Jamaica
October 13-16, 2015

Steps of Jesus & the Apostles
Israel, Greece, Turkey, Italy
October 17-31, 2015

North American Discipleship Summit
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
July 7-10, 2016

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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Jakarta Church Singles Become Refined Like Silver

Written by Budi Hartono, Jakarta, Indonesia

The singles from Central Region of Jakarta Church of Christ hosted a two-day singles retreat of 144 people, which 35 were visitors. The theme of the retreat was to be refined like silver.

The first day was filled with joy. The retreat opened with Budi Hartono sharing a message from Revelations 2-3. God rebuked Ephesus church for losing their first love, being religious but without love. Pergamum was reprimanded for their lost of conviction in truth. Thyatira was rebuked for compromising their righteousness. Sardis was rebuked for being not real. Laodicea was rebuked for being lukewarm. The singles were challenged to reflect on the question: "If Jesus would evaluate us today, what would He say?" The challenge was to really put God as the main source of life. The first day ended with games and praising God.

The second day started with working out. A professional trainer, Ms. Susan, led the session. It was so refreshing and rejuvenating. Everyone proudly wore the "Refined Like Silver" t-shirts designed by Vincent Sontani, Harry Hu, and Billy Tjong.

After the workout, communion and a lesson was taught that reminded the singles to always put God first since he always knows what is best. After the lesson, all participants were given time to share how they felt about the retreat. They were also given time to share the decisions they made and how it would be put into practice. The lesson impacted many people.

It was God's Spirit moving in everyone's heart that all singles went home ready to be refined. Amen.



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