

I Am The Recipient Of A Miracle

I am the recipient of a miracle! Shocking though it sounds, I am deaf. I can't even believe it myself when I think about it. The miracle is that in spite of that, I can hear.

Fifteen or twenty years back, I began to have difficulty understanding words and conversations in our "Back Office", where five of us spend most of our day, doing all the behind-the-scenes stuff necessary to a present-day grocery store (and hardware, too). Because it's an open office, there is lots of cross talk, which is both good and bad. Good because we stay up-to-date on important stuff just overhearing the conversation of others. Bad because conversation can get out of hand on the personal happenings in our lives so that the store ends up paying us for chitchat.

At the time, I realized that I should have my hearing checked and possibly get hearing aids. That wasn't such a slam-dunk decision, since hearing aids are embarrassingly visible and lend to the image of an elderly, less capable person. Why is that, when glasses are also necessary to many people as they age, but there is no stigma attached to them? Boo-hoo-hoo. It's not fair, I whine.

Whining aside, I did get hearing aids, which improved my hearing substantially. It was exciting and rewarding to be able to hear fairly clearly again. But alas, it wasn't too long before the right ear grew worse and finally could hear so poorly that it couldn't even hear the low battery tone in the hearing aid. I had to look for another solution.

Research into hearing devices led me to get a new pair of hearing aids, one of which transmitted sound to the other. It was meant for a situation like mine - one bad ear and one good ear. The hearing aid on the bad side transmitted sound and voices to the good ear to restore two-sided hearing.

That worked for a while, but when I decided to upgrade the hearing aids again, the best brand didn't offer the "bi-cross" feature in the top-of-the-line model that I had decided upon. At that point, I gave up on the bad right ear and only bought a hearing aid for the better left ear, saving money but having to settle for one-sided hearing.

That was my last hearing aid. Then came the miracle.

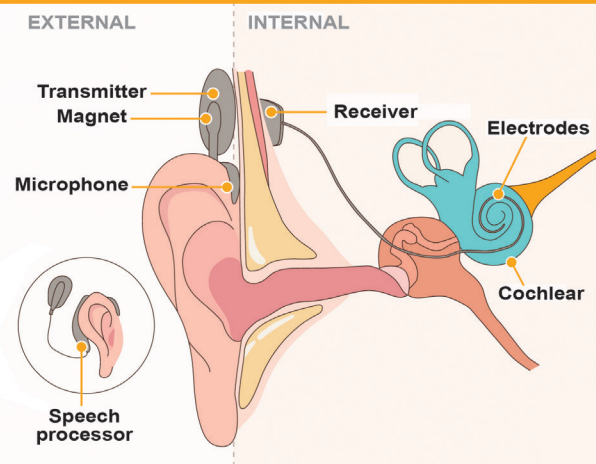
Many of you probably remember the great Rush Limbaugh, the conservative radio talk show host who was an articulate, genius of a showman and opinionator. I was a die-hard Dittohead, in total agree-

ment with his opinions and appreciative of his bombastic humor and satire. I followed his radio show and also his personal life as closely as I could, just because of my high regard for him.

Somewhere in the late 90s or early 2000s, Rush suddenly lost his hearing due to some rare condition. Needless to say, his ability to communicate on his radio show was of prime importance, so this could



How Your Cochlear Implant Works



have killed his career. But rather than fold up and limp home, Rush found a solution and came to California to get it.

I listened for months or more, to discover what he had done for his hearing, aware that my own hearing was headed in the same direction, but not so suddenly. I finally heard him refer to House Clinic in L.A., where they specialize in issues of the ear and hearing. What House did for Rush was to implant at both ears a hearing processor connected to the auditory nerve, and then attach by magnet a device at each ear that collected sounds and transmitted them to the brain, creating an electronic kind of hearing. Rush was able to continue his radio program with his shtick of humor, character, and stalwart common-sense conservatism.

In 2013 or so, I went to House Clinic's Orange office and had my hearing tested. Dr. Luxford, the physician there, told me my hearing wasn't bad enough yet for this miraculous device, called a Cochlear Implant (CI). So I waited several years, and when my right ear became totally deaf, I returned to House Clinic. They tested my hearing again and agreed that the right ear needed the implant and the left ear, though poor, was ok to get a paired hearing aid. Working together, my hearing became vastly improved. I've done so well with that setup that many people are surprised that I have hearing aids or a CI at all.

Now my left ear has failed to the point that it also needs a CI. As I write this, I have just had the small surgery necessary to implant the processor under the skin by the ear, and when it heals in about a month, it will be connected to external device on the ear. Then will begin the process of teaching my brain (poor thing) to "hear" through this device. Hopefully I will have two-sided hearing for the first time in many years!

I consider this to be a modern medical miracle. Without it I would be deaf, unable to relate to the world normally, and tempted to pull out and give up.

I tell this story with the hope that others who are struggling with hearing issues might become inspired to do something about it, the way I was inspired by Rush Limbaugh to pursue a solution and to equip myself to continue with God's calling for my life. I see so many who are hard of hearing, missing much that natural hearing can pick up, and either refusing to get the needed help, or ignorant of the solutions available. Most such people would benefit greatly simply from a hearing aid, which is easy to do and covered by most health insurance and by Medicare. Some could use the CI.

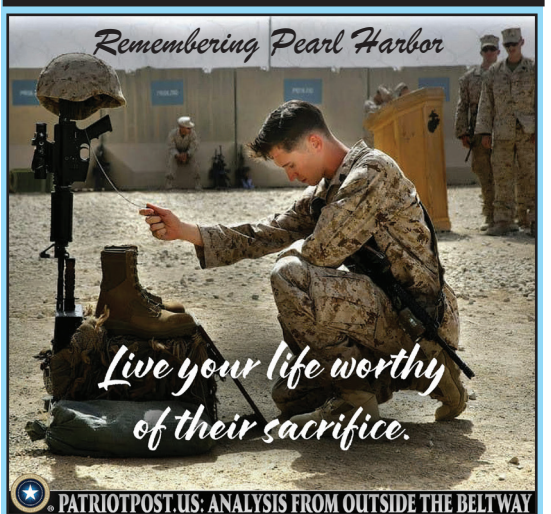
A side note: much as I dislike Google for the way it misleads us with its politically biased search engine, it does put out helpful products at times, and they are strong in assistance for those of us with hearing issues. One of their huge helps is a free app for your phone or tablet called Live Transcribe, which displays the words of your ongoing conversation, so that you can read what is being said. Also, in Google's Android phones, they have installed a feature called "Live Captions", which captions videos and even incoming phone calls. I'd be lost without those tools.

So, bottom line, I thank God for the miracle of the Cochlear Implant so that although I am deaf, I am NOT deaf. And I thank Him for the example of Rush Limbaugh who inspired us, his listeners, to pursue our dreams and goals and to not let obstacles like handicaps or disease or life circumstances to stand in our way.

Most of all, I thank God for being God and giving us the hope of a better life with Him eternally, when all this shtuff will pass away and won't be there to afflict us!

Linda Gommel

On The Lighter Side and some Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



LUCERNE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
FREE EVENT! Dec. 7, 4-6pm
BOOTHs AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL GROUPS, CLUBS, ETC. CALL 760-223-7164 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
FREE TREATS • GOODIES • BRING A CHAIR!
At the former Burger Depot, Lucerne Valley

L.V. Roadrunners Present

Photos with Santa

at your Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware

Sat, Dec. 14, 1:30 pm - 3 pm

Stop by and take a photo of your kid with Santa with your camera!

Get a treat afterward on the front porch from the LV Roadrunners.

ON THE PORCHES

L.V. Roadrunners

BAKE SALE

Saturday, Dec. 14th

8:00 a.m. UNTIL SOLD OUT

Amy Reed Insurance Agency

Sign up for

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Saturday, Dec. 7th

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

LVM Commentary - December 5 - 11, 2024

Lucerne Valley Residents: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Sat. Dec. 14, 2024 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Behind Lucerne Valley Fire Station
33269 Old Womans Spring Rd
(Enter through gate on Ladera Rd)

CAN ONLY TAKE:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Fluorescents
- Medical Needles
- Latex and Oil based paint (15 gal max)
- All Electronic Wastes (E-Waste)
- Oil and Filters (max 5 gal containers)

NO TRASH - NOTHING ELSE

