

## THE TRAGEDY

In 2006 I noticed that my three-year-old daughter, Shayla, had trouble walking. Though the pediatrician said she was just delayed in her development, my concern drove me to take her to a neurologist. After numerous tests, this doctor pronounced devastating news: my precious little princess had an extremely rare genetic disease called Vanishing White Brain Matter, a form of leukodystrophy. There was no treatment, no medication, no cure...no hope.

Unwilling to accept this morbid fate, I promised little Shayla that we would beat this thing...with God's help. But I knew I didn't deserve any special attention from the Almighty—certainly not a miracle of this magnitude. This was all my fault. My beautiful daughter was bearing the punishment for my years of sin, crime, and depravity.

## THE TRANSFORMATION

In this book, two dramatic stories are told in parallel. Woven alongside the journey dealing with Shayla's disease, and my quest for divine healing for her, is an account of my own childhood and adolescence—beginning with the murder of my parents when I was five years old, and continuing through years of rebellion and hatred as I lashed out at loved ones, life, and God.

As a frightened parent taken far beyond my ability to handle my circumstances, I begged God for my daughter's physical healing. As He traveled this difficult path with me, He brought healing to my own heart and soul, blessings beyond measure, and forgiveness for every sin I had ever committed. He assured me, in numerous ways, that Shayla's disease was not my fault. On the contrary, it was actually part of His divine plan, which was beyond human comprehension.



## THE TRIUMPH

Against all human odds, Shayla has lived far beyond her projected lifespan. And not just survived—she touches the lives of everyone she meets with her love, joy, and compassion. In spite of her ongoing physical difficulties, this eight-year-old prays for the needs of others, sees the best in all people, and helps them to see it in themselves. As her father and partner in this struggle, I have learned that God's ways, though impossible for us mortal beings to understand, are truly best. My daughter and I are both exactly where He wants us to be.

*1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Shayla age 8

## THE PURPOSE

In telling Shayla's story alongside my own, I hope readers will see God's hand more clearly in their own lives, whether they're living according to His life-giving principles or walking away from His love and tender care. It is not my intention to sensationalize my sinful life, but rather to show that God does not wish to punish us for our sins, regardless of how bad we may think they are. Rather, He wants to bless us as we turn to Him. No matter what we've done in the past, or what dire circumstances we may face in the present, He longs to give us a bright and joy-filled future.

## A PASTORS RESPONSE TO SHAYLA'S STORY

*"It has not caused any shortage in prayer as we get on our hands and knees for Shayla. She is a special child who could open even a blind man's eyes to how powerful God's grace and mercy really is and how thankful we should be for the blessings and guidance He gives us each and every step, each and every day."*

*Pastor Dan Henshaw  
Mt. View Assembly of God, Spokane, WA*

*"Every now and then God sends each of us unexpected gifts. It may be packaged as a word of encouragement, a simple smile or the support of a friend. I am always amazed how the gifts of God come in all shapes and sizes, and how His gifts always draw us closer to Him. The first line of Psalm 127:3 tells us that "Children are a gift from the Lord." When I think of Shayla, I think of her as a gift from the Lord. Her kindness and joy in the midst of great physical difficulty have been an inspiration to me and to many in our church community."*

*Pastor Will McCain, "One, Spokane Valley, WA*

## YOU CAN HELP!

A project of this magnitude requires a tremendous investment of time, energy, and money. But the rewards will be infinite and everlasting. Once Shayla's story is in book form, it has the potential to change hearts, minds, and lives for all eternity. Readers will learn that God loves them, forgives their sins, cleanses them from all unrighteousness, and answers their prayers...in His own way and His own time, for His perfect purposes. If you'd like to join with me in making this dream a reality, through prayer and/or financial assistance (whether it's a small, one-time donation or a larger and/or long-term commitment), please contact me, Daniel Arrotta, at [shayla509@yahoo.com](mailto:shayla509@yahoo.com).

May our Lord bless you abundantly for your support.