

## BONE FIDE MIRACLE #1

*The Marolyn Ford Story: A woman's complete and instantaneous healing of blindness after prayer*

Marolyn Ford's dramatic, on-the-spot, instantaneous healing of blindness as a result of a specific prayer is a miracle of such magnitude that, if authentic, holds deep implications for our own lives. Of course, if merely an exaggeration or fabrication, it wouldn't carry any implications at all. For this book, I knew that simply reading

about her story from another source wouldn't cut it. The only way to satisfy my own personal skepticism would be to conduct a face-to-face interview where I could ask tough questions and get straight answers. If there were any holes in the story, any stretching of the truth or fabrication, I was determined to find out.

Because Marolyn's miracle occurred thirty-eight years ago in 1972 (a detail that, as you will see, actually gives more power to the story), I was not sure that she was still alive or would even agree to such an interview. To my surprise, however, I found both Marolyn and her husband, Acie, still very much alive and active, residing in Memphis, Tennessee. Interviewing Acie was an added benefit because he was the one who prayed for her when she was instantaneously healed. After numerous telephone conversations and e-mail correspondences, the Fords graciously agreed to open their home to me. The following is the result of that five-hour interview. After you read, you can decide for yourself what to believe.

In this story, I've attempted to present the data as a journalist would by systematically establishing: 1) credibility of character, 2) the truth and extent of Marolyn's blindness prior to the alleged miracle, 3) the detail and description of

the miracle itself, 4) the events following the miracle, including reactions of witnesses, 5) documentation, and 6) summary and conclusion.

Upon my arrival at the Fords' residence, it was snowing outside, and I was greeted by two warm, down-to-earth people. Acie, in his early seventies, was unassuming and humble. He was returning from hospital visitation where his ministry is to counsel and pray with the sick and their families. Marolyn, in her late sixties, had bright eyes beaming with energy and a vivacious spirit that was infectious.

The Fords had spent their lives serving others through their church work in North Louisiana, Southern Arkansas, and Tennessee. At the time of the interview, Acie was working as an associate pastor at the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Memphis, where he is actively ministering today. My first impression was that these people were hardly the type who would lie or make false claims intentionally. They were far more interested in talking about Jesus than promoting themselves. If they told a miracle story, it was because they truly believed it and desired to glorify God.

In 1959, at the age of eighteen, Marolyn Ford began to lose her central vision. One day, while working at her secretarial

job in Holland, Michigan, everything abruptly went blurry. Distraught, she frantically relayed what was happening to her co-worker, Gertrude. Gertrude pointed to a woman who had just entered the room.

“Can you see her?” Gertrude asked.

“No,” Marolyn responded. “I can’t see that far!” The woman was only about fifteen feet away. In a two day period, Marolyn went from normal eyesight to almost total blindness. She could no longer drive, work, or do most of the everyday activities that just days before she had taken for granted. Marolyn was devastated.

Over the next several months, she was in and out of numerous doctors’ offices and underwent a plethora of tests. Eyeglasses didn’t help, and no one could tell her what was wrong. Eventually, Marolyn ended up at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, which had the premier eye clinic in the nation at that time. The final diagnosis was Juvenile Macular Degeneration. The doctor concluded that there was no treatment available. He told Marolyn bluntly, that the best thing she could do would be to “go home and learn to live with it.” On the following page is a letter from the Mayo Clinic confirming Marolyn’s diagnosis.

When considering Marolyn's miracle, keep in mind that, based on the above report, her best correctable visual acuity was 7/200, 14/224 in each eye. I took this letter to a local ophthalmologist and asked what it meant. The doctor responded, "It means she's practically blind, at least legally blind with very little light perception." According to the Snelled Visual Acuity chart, 14/224 meant Marolyn had a 92.8 percent loss of eyesight when the original diagnosis was made. The doctor then explained to me that 7/200 meant the smallest letter Marolyn could read at seven feet could be read by a normal eye at two hundred feet. With what sight she had, she could only make out vague outlines, no detail. When I read the letter to the doctor and his two assistants and then told them that the lady now has perfect vision, they all three said it was impossible to recover from macular degeneration, and that if true, it would have to be a miracle. According to *The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine*, macular degeneration destroys the retinal nerve tissue and replaces it with scar tissue, and the disorder is untreatable. That is, once the retinal nerves are destroyed, spontaneous remission is impossible.<sup>5</sup>

As one might imagine, being legally blind, with her eyesight getting progressively worse, the years following were



difficult. Yet Marolyn continued to trust God and never gave in to a victim mentality. Determined to move on with life, she attended Tennessee Temple University where President Dr. Lee Roberson provided Marolyn with tapes for her reel-to-reel tape recorder so she could study by listening to the class lectures, since she couldn't read the class books. It was during her time at Tennessee Temple that she met Acie Ford. Even though Marolyn was blind and never saw his face, the two dated and fell in love. Eventually, they were married and began working as a husband and wife ministry team. Acie was a pastor and Marolyn did music. Soon they had a daughter named Sharon who, like her husband, Marolyn loved dearly, but couldn't see. Thirteen years passed.

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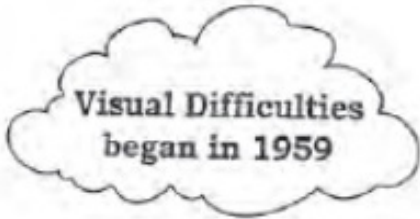
CONTAINS THE MAYO CLINIC LETTER

# Mayo Clinic

Rochester, Minnesota 55901  
Telephone 507 282-2511

Robert W. Hollenhorst, M.D.  
Ophthalmology

2-303-077



Visual Difficulties  
began in 1959

Mrs. Marolyn Ford  
Box 266  
Huttig, Arkansas 71747

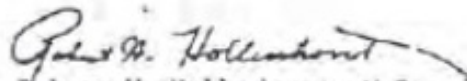
Dear Mrs. Ford:

When you were here June 11-13, 1960, your history indicated that your vision had become poor over a period of about two days one year previously.

Examination of your eyes showed a best correctable visual acuity of 7/200, 14/224 in each eye. This decreased vision was due to a dense central scotoma in each eye caused by a yellowish area of atrophy in the macular retina of each eye. A diagnosis of juvenile macular degeneration was made. We were unable to offer any treatment.

A general physical examination gave normal results except for mild diffuse enlargement of the thyroid. All tests for thyrotoxicosis were, however, normal.

Yours very truly,

  
Robert W. Hollenhorst, M.D.

Then, while they were serving as pastors of Crossroads Baptist Church in Farmerville, Louisiana, Marolyn began to lose what remaining eyesight she had. At that point, she could no longer make out the big “E” on the eye chart. Marolyn had a four-finger count in one eye and hand motion in the other. That meant when a hand was held up, she could make out four fingers, and when a hand was waved inches in front of her face, she could make out the movement. Again, no detail—just outlines. But now, that was rapidly leaving her too. Her vision had failed to the point where she only had some light perception. She could see movement and light through windows and doors. That was about it.

Marolyn’s condition became so desperate that she had to leave her family for a period of months to attend the Arkansas Enterprise for the Blind in Little Rock to receive further training. It was at the AEB that she learned how to read Braille, walk with a white cane, and do math on a Chinese bead-board called an abacus. During my interview, Marolyn demonstrated the Braille technique. It was obvious that she knew what she was talking about. After she came home from the blind school, Braille tags were attached to all sorts of things. For example, they were sewn in the hems of garments to indicate color, and she used cooking utensils

that had Braille markings on the measuring spoons. Marolyn presented several photos of her reading Braille to her daughter and of her walking with her cane.

A man by the name of John Strickland was her Mobility Instructor. It was his job to train Marolyn to learn how to be an independent blind person. One story involving her Mobility Instructor stuck out for me. Once he lit a cigarette lighter and held it about six inches from her face. Marolyn never knew it. She did pick up the heat and smell and asked Mr. Strickland if he was smoking. He told her what he had done and why. He did it to see the severity of her light perception. Basically, she had none. The document on the following page verifies that Marolyn Ford attended the Arkansas School for the Blind. The record is old and worn, so you might have to strain a bit to make it out, but it was the best the school had.

The point of all of the above is to establish the truth that Marolyn Ford was indeed blind and indeed attended the Arkansas Enterprise for the Blind. Now, I ask, why does a person attend a blind school, learn to read Braille, learn to walk with a cane, and learn to function as a blind person? It is because they are blind. This may seem over-simplified, but if Marolyn wasn't blind, the school would have known it and



would not have allowed her to attend.

## THE MIRACLE

On the evening of August 25, 1972, thirteen years after Marolyn's initial diagnosis of Macular Degeneration, believe it or not, on Acie's thirty-third birthday, the miracle occurred. That night, driving home from visiting Acie's family, the couple had talked in depth about their struggles, particularly those involving Marolyn's blindness. They were able to talk more that night because Sharon had asked to stay and sleep with her grandparents. Life had been unusually rough as they had fought with Marolyn's increasing blindness. Both Marolyn and Acie were overwhelmed to the point of despair. After the long and exhausting day, the two were finally ready to turn in and get some much needed sleep. The time was about 1:00 a.m.

Acie told me that Marolyn had climbed into bed. Despite the late hour and their fatigue, Acie read a short devotion and then slipped on his knees beside the bed. He laid his hands across Marolyn as she lay there. They both began to cry as with great feeling and desperation. Acie prayed a simple prayer. "Oh, God!" he cried out. "You can restore

Marolyn's eyesight, Lord. I know You can. And God, if it be Your will, I pray You will do it tonight." Suddenly, after thirteen years of blindness, there was sharpness and light! Laying there in her bed, as her husband prayed, Marolyn's sight was instantly and perfectly restored! Because of my own skepticism, I asked Marolyn to go over again with me exactly what happened in her words.

Before continuing more evidence . Her acceptance at AEB.

### Arkansas Enterprize for the Blind

REPORT ON EYE EXAMINATION

(TO EXAMINEE PLEASE RETURN TO THE REFERRING OFFICE (12-9-40))

APPLICANT'S NAME: Mrs. Myrtilyn Ford AGE: 71 SEX: F RACE: W OCCUPATION: Union DATE OF ONSET OF BLINDNESS: 1898

ADDRESS: Route 2, Farmerville, Louisiana OCCUPATION: Union

EXAMINED BY: Medical Director O.H.

Diagnosis (including fundi): Degeneration and scarring of Macula in both eyes

Diagnosis (Primary Cause): Exposure to 10 yrs. Poron Dyeing Machine

Diagnosis (Secondary Cause): Macular Degeneration

Diagnosis (Tertiary Cause): Legally Blind

Biological cause responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

Prognosis: Is there any likelihood vision can be restored by operation or treatment?  Yes  No

Characteristics of condition (check) Acute \_\_\_\_\_ Progressive \_\_\_\_\_ Insidious \_\_\_\_\_ Recurrent \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Communicable \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS (including use of other handiwork): None

CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY			
(Use Snellen notation and AMN reading card for near vision)			
Without correction		With best correction	
Distance	Near	Distance	Near
20/200	FC	20/400	FC
L. 2. HM/HM	FC	FC	FC

Peripheral Vision: R. E. \_\_\_\_\_ L. E. \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a condition in peripheral field, please record: \_\_\_\_\_

Record number at time of examination: R. E. \_\_\_\_\_ L. E. \_\_\_\_\_

Is Macular Function Present?  Yes  No

Date of Examination: 1/29/71

Date of Report: 2/17/71

Signature of Examiner: P. Shaw

LEFT EYE

RIGHT EYE

Report reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

On the basis of the above report this applicant is recommended for \_\_\_\_\_

Original sent to STATE OFFICE and 2 copies sent to MISS FORD, 1247, FARMVILLE, LA.

“Well,” she said, “When Acie began to pray, I had closed my eyes.”

“That’s kind of strange,” I said, “I mean, a blind person closing their eyes to pray. Don’t you think?”

“Oh, no,” she responded. “Even though I was blind, I had trained myself to close my eyes for prayer. It was just something I did naturally because I wanted to look and act as normal as possible.”

“What was the difference with your eyes open and when they were closed?”

“There was little difference,” she said. “When my eyes were open, all I saw was a gray haze. Before I had closed my eyes that night, I couldn’t see anything, but when I opened my eyes after Acie had prayed, to my amazement, I could see perfectly. There he was, right there in front of me, the husband I had never seen before!”

Acie said that it wasn’t a case of great faith because he was shocked and couldn’t believe what was happening. “It was all God’s doing.”

“Acie, I can see!” Marolyn shouted. “I can see!”

“What do you mean, you can see? You’re kidding?” Acie shouted back.



“I can see the pupils of your eyes, and I can see your rosy cheeks! Acie, it’s 1:00 a.m. You need a shave! Acie, I can see!”

Acie still couldn’t believe that a miracle had really occurred so he ran into the other room and grabbed a copy of the *Monroe Morning World* newspaper. He held it up in front of Marolyn and asked if she could read the large print.

“I can do better than that!” she exclaimed. “I can read the fine print!”

The couple praised God all night. Even though it was the wee hours of the morning, they called both Marolyn’s parents and Acie’s, waking them up for the news. Marolyn ran around the house examining things, especially Acie and her own self in the mirror. Imagine not seeing yourself for thirteen years! Over and over again she looked at the photo of Sharon, which had been setting on the dresser. It was one of the most joyous moments when, the next day, Marolyn finally saw her daughter face-to-face. Not too long afterward, Marolyn and Acie made a trip to Holland, Michigan, especially so Marolyn could see what her family now looked like. While there, she shared her miracle with the Immanuel Baptist Church in Holland as a sighted person. Ironically, she had also spoken at that same church earlier as a blind



person.

Nearly everyone in the community and surrounding areas where they lived in Louisiana knew of Marolyn's blindness. She had shopped at the local stores with her white cane in hand and had recently spoken for the local Lion's Club as a blind person. The Lion's Club is known for their work with the blind. When word got out about the miracle, literally hundreds of people flooded to the Fords' home. Though Acie and Marolyn were pastors of the Crossroads Baptist Church, people from all the churches around came to see—Pentecostals, Catholics, Methodists, and even people of no faith. It was such news that several newspapers picked up on the story.

Later that week, when Marolyn went to the eye doctor, he revealed that an even greater miracle had occurred. The doctor's startling report indicated that her eyes, medically speaking, had not changed at all. The macular was still full of holes, and the nerve endings were still dead. The doctor acknowledged that it was impossible for her to be seeing, yet she could see. Some time later, Marolyn was attending a funeral, and the eye doctor's assistant happened to be there. She pulled Marolyn aside and told her the following story.

She said, “Marolyn, you don’t know me, but I have to tell you what happened the day you came in to see the doctor after your miracle happened. My job was to follow the doctor back into his office after he saw a patient, and he would dictate to me what to write down on the patient’s medical record. I would take it in shorthand and then later type it out. Well, that day, after the doctor told you that he didn’t know what you were seeing with, we went to his office, and he sat in his chair, leaned back, and just sat there in total quietness. This went on for like twenty minutes, and I started to feel really uncomfortable, not knowing whether I should leave the room or wait for his dictation. Then finally, he looked up and said, ‘I don’t know what that lady is seeing with. I don’t know what to tell you to put on her record. I’ve never seen anything like it.’”

So, here’s the deal. It is an established historical fact that Marolyn Ford was blind and that she attended the Arkansas Enterprise for the Blind. She learned to read Braille, walk with a cane, and so forth, something one does not do if she can see. There were hundreds of witnesses who knew she was blind. Likewise, there were hundreds of witnesses who confirmed her healing, not the least was her own husband and daughter. Even Mr. Strickland from the blind school

came and visited.

If Marolyn was not genuinely blind, why did Acie even pray for her that night? And if she could see anything before he prayed, why would he run and get a newspaper to test her sight after he prayed? But here's the real kicker that proves to me that this is a bona fide miracle of God. For thirteen years, Marolyn was blind and was so up until the moment of the prayer. There was a very specific prayer asking for her healing. She closed her eyes as a blind person and opened them as a sighted person with perfect vision. Was it a coincidence that her eyesight just happened to return the moment of the prayer? After thirteen years? You tell me.

Finally, as I talked with this well-documented once blind lady, it was obvious to me that, at nearly seventy, she could see quite well, better than me! I need glasses; she does not. On the following page is a letter from Dr. David G. Evans, O.D. of Memphis, Tennessee.

The bottom line is that Marolyn Ford had a miracle of biblical proportions, and the only way a person can deny it is to choose to flagrantly disregard the obvious. That, my friend, would be pure insanity. This lady's experience is not, as Richard Dawkins says, "a pink elephant" or a result of "the

brain and its powerful workings.” It is ridiculous to conclude that Marolyn Ford received her sight as a result of wishful thinking or the powers of the mind. Nope, a woman was blind, her husband prayed, and she got a miracle as a sovereign act of God.

Roy Brunson had been a vice-president of a Fortune 500 company, a multi-millionaire, and a hardcore atheist. Raised as an atheist, his mother drilled into him that a God who allowed evil in the world couldn't possibly exist. Then one day Roy's glorious life came crashing down. I'll spare you the details, but he found himself broke, devastated, angry, and contemplating suicide. Today, Roy Brunson heads up World Light Ministries and is an evangelist/missionary to the Ukraine and Africa. At last count he has led over 215,000 people to faith in Christ. What happened to change his mind? He credits sitting next to Marolyn Ford on an airplane as the single event in his life that was the catalyst to his salvation and rebirth. Listen to Roy's own words:

I was on a plane from Dallas to Memphis contemplating how I would take my own life, when an attractive, middle-aged woman sat next to me. After some small talk, she could tell something was



bothering me. “Jesus loves you,” she said with a warm smile. “Lady,” I shouted back, “exactly what did God do for you anyway?” That was a mistake. She told me she had been totally blind for over thirteen years. One night after coming home from visiting relatives, her husband, who was a Baptist minister, got down on his knees and started praying for her eyesight while she lay in bed. She said he prayed, “God, I know that You can make Marolyn see. O God, make her see now” and just like that she saw her husband Acie for the first time. Then she saw her daughter for the first time. She had met and married Acie while she was in college when she was blind. She then went on to explain that she had numerous doctors examine her and they all said it was impossible for her to see. The damage to her eyes was still there and beyond repair. But they could not explain how she now had 20/20 vision. They had to admit that the only explanation possible was a supernatural one. It could only be a miracle. Her blue eyes looked right through me into my soul. I was very frightened. Could my mother be wrong? Was there really a God that loved me and had a plan for my life?<sup>6</sup>



"See the best you can see"

David G. Evans, O.D.

Don W. Gayso, O.D.

Eugene B. McLaurin, M.D.

Elizabeth W. Mitchell, M.D.

John E. Lina, M.D.

Howard L. Beale, M.D.

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Fax: (901) 761-3072

[www.totaleyecarememphis.com](http://www.totaleyecarememphis.com)

September 11, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Marolyn Ford

Mrs. Marolyn Ford has been my patient for six years and I can report that today, Mrs. Ford has 20/30 visual acuity in both eyes. This is only two lines from 20/20, which is considered perfect vision.

I have reviewed her previous medical records on multiple occasions, which date back to the early 1960's. At that time, she was legally blind with visual acuity of "finger counting" in the right eye and "hand motion" in the left eye.

In my fourteen years of practice, I have never experienced this type of profound visual acuity improvement with any patient. Certainly, with today's modern surgical procedures, a physician can offer visual improvement to many patients. However, in this case surgery was not an option and was never offered.

It is my opinion that the Ultimate Physician was at work in 1972 when this miracle occurred. I believe that God is still doing a miracle in the life of Mrs. Ford today.

In His Service,

David G. Evans, O.D.

Thank you LORD for this amazing testimony!!!!!!!!!!



egacy.com/us/obituaries/tennessean/name/roy-brunson-obituary?id=17411260&\_\_cf\_chl\_cap  
tcha\_tk\_\_=eFIgUcx\_1HeUJ69mPioQ1EFmqh.uA3G3sZAUUy1zM5c-1639417272-0-gaNyc  
GzNCKU

ROY BRUNSON