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Triumph over Financial Ruin

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"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston Churchill 1871-1965

## God used a pet rabbit to build my 7 year old daughter's Faith

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As a Christian I have never experienced anything like this. I will not blame you if this sounds crazy and unbelievable, as this is the same thought that went through my mind.

I want to share with you what happened to my 7 year old daughter Enya and her pet rabbit named – Fluffy, over the past 3 weeks.

Fluffy, the pet rabbit, is one and a half years old, lily white, softer than a soft toy and as tame as a cat. He jumps up on the bed and licks Enya sometimes to wake her up. He asks to go outside to do his toilet-routine by bumping her on the leg until she notices and opens the

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door. He sometimes takes a nap with Enya in bed. She confesses that apart from God and us, she loves him the most. She often says that she wants him stuffed when he dies and have marbles in place of his eyes.

We also have a 70 kg-big Boerboel dog – Chico, who has his God given hunting instincts well hidden under his brown coat, most of the time. Sometimes both of them lie beside each other in front of the gate watching the cars go by. A typical image of the lion and the lamb.

Certain times of the month Fluffy gets very territorial. He then wants to chase and challenge every moving object. Chico does not like this and challenges this 2 kg moving target.

Disaster struck 3 weeks ago when, 3 hysterical cries came from the lounge. My wife, son and daughter looked out the window and saw Fluffy in the flower pot where he usually sleeps. One side of his head was covered in blood. Chico had bitten him and it looked bad, very bad. We were all shaken by what we saw. The children were so traumatized that we could not send them to school that day.

That morning, I was confronted with questions from my 7 year old child that I had never thought of or had to answer. How do you answer your child, whom you taught that anything is possible with God when she asks: "Can you pray for the rabbit to be healed?"

I have seen and experienced how God worked in supernatural ways, both in my personal life and in the mission field in Africa, but have never seen or heard that one can pray for the healing of a pet rabbit.

The rabbit's eye was severely injured, the vet gave medication and we all joined Enya in prayer for her rabbit's healing. The rabbit did not lose this eye. With the faith of a 7 year old child, Enya regularly prayed and laid hands on the rabbit for complete healing and sight in the eye.

Fluffy's eye recovered to such an extent, that I almost thought he might be able to see with the eye one day. I then started to build a state of the art rabbit hatchery to go full-on into rabbit breeding. In the mean time we tried our best to keep the dog and rabbit apart.

Late yesterday afternoon, disaster struck again. This time it looked as if we were going to lose the rabbit. The rabbit bit the dog. Chico retaliated and jumped onto the rabbit to finish him off once and for all.

When I picked up the rabbit, I saw that his eye was gone. There was only a hollow indent where the eye used to be. I opened the two eye lids and could only see flesh where the eye used to be. Blood and fluid poured out of the wound. I realized that Chico's tooth might have gone right through the middle of the eye. I tried to calm Enya and explained that I will take Fluffy to the vet the next day to have the eye stitched closed.

I locked the rabbit in the garage for the night and regularly checked his condition. The next morning I woke up and checked again before I took Enya to school.

On the way to school we prayed for the day with our children. Enya asked me if all chances were lost for the rabbit ever to see again after his eyelids have been stitched close. She then said that if this is what God thinks is best it will be ok with her, but asked us to pray one last time.

I have gone through a life changing journey of triumph over financial ruin in my travel business in the past 18 months. One of our biggest customers, a German travel group, stopped selling South Africa tours, favouring new, fresh destination and my business went under. I have lost a lot but gained more. One of many lessons I have learned and have written about in my book, "More Than a Million Canaries", is to trust God for the impossible.

However, it was still difficult for me to tell my daughter that Fluffy's eye will be all right. We prayed and I went back home.

I opened the garage door and picked Fluffy up to take him to the vet. When I picked him up he turned his head towards me and there was an eye in the eye casing! Fluffy had both his eyes and was looking well.

This bowled me over. I questioned and searched myself and God in disbelief until I was answered in the most amazing and supernatural way imaginable.

Not needing to go to the vet any more, I now had an urge to share this with every-one I could think off. First on my list was to take a copy of my book to a friend that needed encouragement with his business going through severe difficulty. I met with him in his

boardroom for a quick coffee, gave him a copy of the book and told him about this morning's rabbit encounter.

On my way out I could see disbelief in his eyes. I doubted it myself for a moment and thought I might sound crazy. On my way to the car, I asked God to help me and to show me if this is Him teaching me something.

I sat quietly for a moment in my car trying to listen for answers to my questions. I reached in my pocket to take out my mobile phone to make a call. I found a full colour image of an angel with praying hands on the screen. I was totally blown away for several reasons:

- I have never received anything like this before on my phone.
- My phone is not activated to receive any pictures or graphics.
- I touched a button on my phone and the image disappeared.
- I searched my phone to see if this was by chance an sms.
- No sms and nowhere on my phone could I find that image again.

What have I learnt through this?

- The Father is indeed operating in our lives in the most awesome ways ever thought off.
- He wants us to believe like a child.
  - **Matthew 18:2-3** He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Do not only build your faith on physical evidence. Faith is to believe in the unseen as if it has already happened.
- Sometimes you will have to believe without evidence.

I hope that this will encourage you as much as it has encouraged me to explore more, believe more and to grow in your personal relationship with the Father.

Whatever you trust Him for today, never give up! He will never give up on you. Each one of us is special in His eyes and He cares about the very detail of our wellbeing.

## More than a Million Canaries

**Luke 12 verses 6 and 7:** *(The Message) What's the price of two or three pet canaries? Some loose change, right? But God never overlooks a single one. And he pays even greater attention to you, down to the last details - even numbering the*

*hairs on your head! So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. **You're worth more than a million canaries.***

God Bless You

Martin Oosthuizen

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PS: If you know of anyone who may benefit from reading this, please forward this to them.

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