



*Because it only takes a miracle
One small miracle
To change an ordinary life into an
extraordinary life
And when you recognize an obstacle
as something possible
Then, that one small miracle will
change your life.
from One Small Miracle
by Jennifer Burnett*

One Small Miracle

Kent Rautenstrauss

Albert Einstein said, “There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle.”

For multitalented performer Jennifer Burnett, “one small miracle” describes a transformative moment in her life, the title of her new song and acclaimed CD, and her unshakable belief anchored in the Science of Mind teachings that everything in life is a miracle, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.

Life-Threatening Moment

In 1997, a self-described “strong-willed, independent, and capable person,” and a single woman with a promising music career, Jennifer wanted her baby more than anything in the world. “I had no idea of the journey on which I was about to embark,” she would later explain. For months, Jennifer sailed happily through her pregnancy, but then her blood pressure began to rise higher and higher, and she experienced inexplicable bleeding. She was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia, a condition where the placenta is poisoning the mother, and she was placed on immediate bed rest. A short while later, her unborn baby was diagnosed with intrauter-

ine growth restriction, which refers to a fetus that is growing slowly and doesn't weigh as much as expected at a certain stage of pregnancy. In Jennifer's case, her baby was actually getting smaller.

Her doctor decided to perform an emergency caesarean section delivery. The nurse came into the hospital room to deliver a shot to prepare Jennifer for surgery. "Within ten seconds of her removing the needle from my arm, I was shaking violently, and my eyesight was defective. I saw eighty-nine numbers on the clock. There were nine televisions in the room, and the headache that had been plaguing me was even worse."

A compassionate and concerned nurse began gently rubbing Jennifer's back and encouraging her to come up with a name for her baby. "I had to know that everything was working out, so I smiled and said, 'Miracle, I guess.'" Moments later in the operating room, Jennifer became violently ill and had a grand mal seizure while undergoing the c-section.

Mia Miracle was born ten weeks early weighing two pounds, four ounces. "Mia is Italian for 'my.' She was my miracle." Miraculous as she was, Mia was also blue and limp and couldn't breathe on her own. "She was so small that her diaper was a cotton ball."

Both mom and daughter continued to experience serious health

challenges. Jennifer's kidneys were not functioning, and she required multiple blood transfusions; Mia breathed with the help of a respirator and was diagnosed with blood clots in her brain.

"I felt totally helpless." In that moment, Jennifer prayed a simple, honest prayer. "God, I can't do anything to help my baby. If I'm to be her mom for just a few days and you take her, so be it. If she lives, and I'm to be her mom and deal with any kind of health or mental issues, so be it. And if I'm to be her mom and have a healthy child to guide and learn from, so be it. These last few days, you've had both of us by the hand, and you didn't take either of us. I trust you have a plan for us. So I turn it all over to you." Immediately, Jennifer experienced a sense of calm and rolled over and went to sleep.

A "miracle" occurred. Slowly but surely, Jennifer and Mia began healing and becoming physically stronger, and both were eventually released from the hospital—Jennifer within a week, and Mia in seven weeks. Her prayer for a miracle for herself and for her fragile, tiny baby was answered, and her faith in a power for good deeply anchored.

Miraculous Beginnings

According to Jennifer's parents and big brothers, Jennifer was intensely attracted to music from an early

age, and her talent was considered miraculous, at least by Carlsbad, New Mexico, standards. They recall how as a baby, Jennifer put her hand on her mother Morlene's face while she vocalized, and baby Jennifer would imitate the gestures and sounds. Morlene was an opera singer who once sang with the El Paso Symphony under the direction of famed opera impresario Sir Rudolph Bing. Dad N.C. was musical in a different way. He taught his daughter her first song—an "inappropriate" comedy song, and today, Jennifer is capable of pulling off both genres of music with equal aplomb.

The musical prodigy surfaced again at two when she stood up in her high chair stool and belted out a song. Her brothers didn't like the attention their baby sister immediately received, but then at kindergarten graduation, Jennifer sang the popular '60s song "Jean," causing the grown-ups to tear-up with amazement.

At six, Jennifer sang "Hello, Dolly" for a local civic organization. She was so small that she stood on a table, and when she finished, she received a standing ovation. "Mama, mama, I got a stood up!" she exclaimed, and then described in great detail what people in the audience were wearing. Morlene couldn't believe her daughter's uncanny ability to be fully present on and



Jennifer and daughter Mia

off the stage.

At about this same time, Jennifer sang her first solo in the church where her family attended. The selection was "Let There Be Peace on Earth." An interesting foreshadowing, as today Jennifer frequently leads this same song, which is popular in our centers.

Auditioning for Liberace

As a wonder kid, musical miracles kept happening for Jennifer. Eight-year-old Jennifer was invited to audition for Seymour Heller, the legendary agent for the famed showman and pianist Liberace. Morlene accompanied her daughter on the piano and also made Jennifer's costume, which was comprised of tux, tail, and hat. Backstage at the Phoenix Civic Center, Jennifer remembers seeing Liberace walk past while saying warmly, "Hi, Jennifer;" and then it was time for the audition with "Mr. Heller." She sang and danced to "Hello, Dolly" and the great agent kept a poker face, paused,

then said, “I think she’s the next Debbie Reynolds . . . and I don’t know what to do with her,” quickly adding, “but she’s very good!”

As it turns out, Jennifer was too young to tour with Liberace, but Heller encouraged her to come back when she was twelve. “Continue to sing and dance,” he implored, like a doting grandfather. But as fate would have it, other miraculous creative opportunities were in store for Jennifer, and she never re-auditioned for Heller.

Creative Miracles Abound

Back home in New Mexico, word spread quickly about the talented young girl with the big voice, and soon Governor Toney Anaya asked her to sing at the state Democratic Convention, which she did on her tenth birthday. This led to local television appearances. Then, at thirteen, Jennifer recorded her first 45-rpm single in Nashville, Tennessee, followed at age fourteen with an entire record album entitled *Jennifer Burnett*. At fifteen, she was voted Top Female Vocalist by



Mom and daughter

the Colorado Country Music Association, and a short time later, a local cable television station director in New Mexico asked her to star in and co-produce her own half-hour weekly cable show, *Entertainment Spotlight*.

Jennifer’s music and concepts were used in the opening television credits, and she interviewed local talent each week, in addition to singing songs. She learned a lot about production, staging, and timing both in front of and behind the camera. Jennifer did this for six months; then, in the next couple of years, new creative opportunities presented themselves to take advanced-level dance lessons; to choreograph choirs, pageants, and shows, both at her own school and throughout the southeast New Mexico region; to learn about technical theater, including the power of lighting to set a mood; and to study acting. By the time she was in high school, she received a superior acting award from her drama teacher. She was, to all who knew her, a feisty, miraculous, manifold talent.

College and Beyond

Jennifer was awarded a scholarship to attend college to study in musical theater and dance. After being cast in the lead role in the university’s musical her first semester of school, she continued her studies. After a year, she moved to

Colorado, where she was cast as an understudy in the national touring theater production of *Beehive, The 60s Musical*.

A musical tour to South Korea fronting a rock band followed; she was a headline vocalist at society parties and high-profile events throughout Colorado and the United States. During this time, she opened for many renowned musicians, including Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, and Steppenwolf. She sang at wedding reception for actors William H. Macy and Felicity Huffman, as well as the wedding of comedian Tim Allen; a reception for Vice President Al Gore; and in 2001, the Florida Inaugural Ball for President George W. Bush.

A one-year stint working for Sony Music in Los Angeles during the 1992 race riots taught her about copyright licensing and, sadly, how to survive in a “war zone,” which included the sounds of gunshots firing nearby.

Discovering Religious Science

Following Mia’s birth in 1997, Jennifer experienced a deepening in her spiritual beliefs as a result of Mia’s difficult premature birth and miraculous recovery to complete wellness, all undergirded by the power of prayer. Jennifer discovered Religious Science and began attending Mile Hi Church in Denver, Colorado, as her schedule

allowed. She liked what she felt and heard in this spiritual community, plus she knew several musicians who worked at the church. She auditioned and was quickly booked to sing for an upcoming service where she was asked to share music supporting the minister’s message entitled “Illness as a Spiritual Opportunity.” Jennifer was momentarily stunned at the miraculous interplay of her personal, musical, and spiritual life. It was a miracle, she thought, to be sharing about illness as a spiritual opportunity! “The sense of calm that came over me has stayed with me and shows up in interesting moments. When I start to doubt or wonder or worry about an outcome, I remind myself of that peace, that moment of surrender. I was able to release the outcome to God, and if I could do that in such a grave situation, then any other situation that arises is easy to release to God. That feeling is a mental equivalent that I hold onto, and I am grateful for that knowing.”

Jennifer’s music and spirit connected at that first service, and she began singing on an ongoing basis at Mile Hi. In 2003, she was hired as the administrative assistant to the Music Ministry. In this capacity, she began using all of her life skills and talents, including staging big events, choreographing the choir, and up-leveling all aspects of the service from a production

standpoint. Along the way, she began to let go of many outside musical gigs.

“I was attached to singing every weekend as I thought that was what defined me as a vocalist. But it never fulfilled me. So I took a leap of faith and let go of some performing; I chose quality over quantity. I made a conscious decision to use my voice to bring joy to people, to make a difference, to heal the world. From that moment on, my life has flourished and my music has grown in ways I never knew it could.”

Examples of her life flourishing are marrying well-known Denver saxophonist Carlos Chavez; seeing Mia grow into a talented and confident young woman; recording two CDs, *Colors of Love* and *One Small Miracle*, which feature Jennifer’s original songs; traveling as a guest artist at conferences and spiritual centers throughout the United States; and being promoted to production director at Mile Hi Church. Jennifer is currently in practitioner studies to be of even greater service to her spiritual community.

“In this job, I can use all of my ‘on-stage’ and ‘off-stage’ life experiences. When I am ‘in the music, really connected to a song, I am one with God. I feel the same connection supporting a service with excellence in production. Some people look at production

as a dirty word. They say, ‘Let’s not over produce a church service.’ But when you do all your thinking in advance, that’s when you can let Spirit take over.” She added that Dr. Marjorie Staum at Mile Hi sums it up best, “God is in the details.”

Life as a Miracle

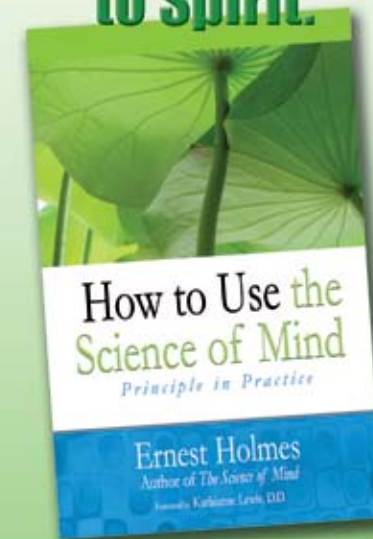
Jennifer Burnett sees her life as a series of miracles unfolding one after another. They have brought her to her perfect job and spiritual community. “I know that every step in my life led me to the Science of Mind principles.” She repeated a sentence for emphasis, “Everything in life happens for a reason.” This is an awareness that each of us can draw from Jennifer Burnett’s story. Everything in our lives also happens for a reason. Maybe we should sit back and enjoy the ride more often. After all, we’re not doing the driving—Spirit is! ■

**To find out more about
Jennifer Burnett’s music, visit
www.jenniferburnett.com.**

Born out of spiritual visioning, *One Small Miracle* is a musically integrated and evocative new CD recording that artistically “remains in the pocket” and delivers powerful spiritual content. Jennifer Burnett’s vocals are understated and compelling—the kind that draw you in, that you want to hear over and over and over. She and music director/drummer Mike Marlier assembled an all-star band that plays with incredible finesse and brings a freshness and integrity to the music that catches the ear. Yes, it is *the* Jose Rossy, percussionist for Robert Palmer and Patti LaBelle, who plays passionately throughout, as do all the musicians and vocalists, including Jennifer’s husband, saxophonist Carlos Chavez. The music itself spans everything from great grooves to deep spaciousness to spiritually infused lyrics. Jennifer, a relatively new songwriter, penned over half of the songs in this CD collection including the title track, “One Small Miracle.” Just try to get that song out of your head once you’ve heard it! Another memorable song, “Be,” is deeply autobiographical, describing Jennifer’s journey to empowerment. Stunning graphic design by Thom Lich, who also sings on the recording, and photography by Carl Studna extend the musical vision of openness to Spirit. This CD is simply a very fine statement, both musically and spiritually.

Kent Rautenstrauss

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