

## **While There Is Breath There Is Hope (And in Christ There is Hope Beyond Breath)**

I (Pierre Chiasson) was on a mission trip to Northern and South Ireland in the early 90s and I was preaching at an outdoor venue in downtown Belfast. The “troubles” (violence) were still on but it was relatively calm and our team was working with Robert Hunsdale who is a Pastor in Belfast. After I had spoken for a while I saw Robert talking to a tall man who I noticed was dragging one foot behind him as he walked. Robert introduced me to him and said to the man “Tell him your story. Tell him your story.”

This is what he told me;

He said he was a police officer in Belfast and he and his partner were parked on a street and the IRA came along and riddled the car with bullets. His partner died instantly and he took 6 bullets, 4 to his body and 2 to the brain. He was discovered and rushed to the hospital. His wife was a Christian but he was not. He knew the gospel but had rejected accepting Christ as his Savior. They managed to stabilize him on life support but they had a meeting with his wife and told her that there was no brain activity to indicate that he would ever be cognizant. After a couple of days they were in the room discussing what the situation was and they counseled her that because he was for all intents and purposes brain dead that the only viable option was to pull the plug. Now the remarkable thing was this man who was supposedly brain dead was hearing every word and screaming in his mind “Don’t pull the plug! Don’t pull the plug!” He was fully conscious even though he could not move a muscle. As he lay there and realized that it was likely that he was going to die very shortly, he began to think about his soul and where he would spend eternity. God convicted him of his need of Jesus Christ as his Savior and there, supposedly in a brain dead comatose state he prayed and trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior. He said that God gave him peace that his sins were forgiven and he knew that he had become a Christian.

They did pull the plug and to their surprise he did not die. It was six months later that he woke up out of the coma. After a lengthy recovery God had restored him to the place that he was able to be walking in downtown Belfast and to share with me the remarkable grace that saved him from spiritual and physical death. He still had one bullet lodged in his brain that they were unable to remove and he walked with a limp but God had rescued him.

I posted this true story to encourage those who have someone who may be lying in a comatose state and supposedly unable to hear you. We don’t know for sure. The technology we have cannot tell us everything. This does not mean that everyone is cognizant, but since we do not know for sure we need to cling to life and hope. From that time on I have made it a point in my ministry to speak and sing and share at bedsides where it may seem that the person cannot discern what is happening around them. Only God knows. While there is breath there is hope and thank God that for those who have faith in Jesus Christ that there is hope beyond breath.