

# BAYSHORE BLESSINGS

## The Holly Eaton Story

### Pain turns to Praise



BRADENTON, FL  
January 2011

Bradenton resident, Holly Eaton, was driving with a friend in her car on November 5, 2010. It was early evening. No road hazards, bad weather, or anything. Suddenly, a car brushes hers, spins out, bounces off the guard rail and carooms back into the driver's side of Holly's car with multi-ton impact! When she comes to, the EMT and firemen are using the "Jaws of

Life" to extricate her from the crushed driver's seat. Her friend is OK. The driver of the other car, who, apparently was reaching down to retrieve her cell phone, was not seriously injured either.

The first things Holly remembers are that the emergency attendants saying that it looks like she will probably lose both her left arm and left leg!

In the ER of Tampa General they ascertain that Holly has broken most of the bones in her young body. By the grace of God and the incredible skills of the orthopedic surgeons, they are able to save both smashed limbs. After a dozen or more surgeries, one of which was performed for only the fourth time in history, she is able to feel some assurance that she will live through this nightmare.

- The first things Holly remembers are that the emergency attendants saying that it looks like she will probably lose both her left arm and left leg!
- Before the accident, Holly had drifted away from what had been an active church life.

Bayshore enters the picture of Holly's predicament a month later in December when the interim pastor, Dr. Dan Griffin, finds a message on his answering machine from a "Tammy" in New Hampshire! After unsuccessful attempts to return the call, he finally, reaches Tammy, whom, he learns, is the cousin of the injured young lady. She explains the situation with her cousin, emphasizing the fact that Holly is alone here in Tampa. Tammy wonders if we might go visit her and then says something that still seems amazing: she said she called several Tampa churches. *Bayshore was the only one that had an answering machine working!*

loving God. serving others for Jesus.

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- Holly realizes now that God was with her and saved her life. She acknowledges that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ responded to her situation with love, caring, physical help, and prayer. Warm hugs and expressions of positive faith are also a part of her rehab!
- She has promised to walk on her own into our church one day and give her testimony as a way of thanking God for her life and Bayshore for their concern and ministry.

## The Holly Eaton Story (continued from page 1)



The pastor and his wife go to see Holly at TGH and find a very dispirited woman in tears, both for the pain she was still in after a month and for the depression and loneliness that inevitably accompany such traumatic injury. Two other attempts to see Holly were in vain because of additional surgeries and therapy she was enduring.

After the Christmas holidays, the pastor received a message from Holly indicating that she was at Accentia Rehab out on Fletcher Avenue in north Tampa. Dan and Marilyn found her and thus continued a sweet friendship and ministry to this unfortunate woman. Gradually, she

has been able to sit in a wheelchair and begin to do a lot of things for herself. Yet, at this writing, she is still in a hard plastic body brace and cannot put any weight on the wounded left leg. Her left arm is miraculously usable with the promise of complete rehabilitation!

The Griffins went to see her each Thursday afternoon. They took her a Bible and some flower arrangements lovingly prepared by Vivian Dillard. As her story was shared with several church groups, other church members got involved. Tammy Snyder and John Parker met Dan and Marilyn there one day, and John got some great pictures of Holly. Tammy Snyder, the Women's Minister at Bayshore, has promised to continue contact with Holly when the Griffins have to return to Texas. Kevin Edmonson made a visit to see Holly and has

talked with her by cell phone several times. Fred Rogers has committed his time and trailer to transport her hospital bed and other large pieces of equipment to Bradenton when Holly is released to home and home health care. Karen Rooks brought cookies, books, and a note of bracing encouragement that the Griffins were able to deliver.

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