

**From the Heart    October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002**

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**First United Methodist Church**

When Karen was pregnant with her second child, a seemingly normal pregnancy, her 3-year-old son, Michael, began a relationship with his unborn sister by singing to her every night. Night after night, he would sing his new sister a song. It was his way of bonding.

When it came time for Karen to give birth to the baby, there was trouble during the delivery. Michael's baby sister was in serious condition by the time she was finally born. The infant was immediately rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee. As the days went by, the baby grew weaker. The doctors told the family that it did not look good for the little girl and began to prepare them for her expected death.

During the stay in the intensive care unit, Michael constantly asked about seeing his little sister. He wanted to "sing" to her. By the second week, when it did not look good for his sister, they dressed Michael in an oversized scrub suit and took him into the unit to see his sister. Several people were concerned that a 3-year-old was in the unit, and Michael was asked to leave. His mom protested, however, and said, "He is not leaving until he sings to his sister."

Michael made his way over to the bassinet that held his sick little sister. He placed his hand on the plastic shield, and began to sing this song:

"You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray.  
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you". (Do you remember how the song ends?)

"Please don't take my sunshine away."

Woman's Day magazine called it the "miracle of a brother's song." The doctors just called it a miracle! Karen called it a miracle of God's love. The next week, when they thought they might be planning a funeral, they took Michael's sister home. She had responded immediately to the familiar voice of her brother.

A familiar voice in the time of struggle can bring reassurance. A familiar voice and a song of encouragement when we are down and out can restore life and vitality. Take a moment and listen closely. Listen for that familiar voice that has been singing to you since He knit you together in your mother's womb. It's a song of love – even more, it's a song of God's love for you. It's a song calling out, "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full." It's a song proclaiming, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." It's a song promising, "When you are weary and heavy laden, come to Me and I will give you rest." It's a song of encouragement to restore life and vitality to us.

Will you let God sing you back to life today? Will you tune your ears to hear the music of His song of love and restoration for you? And once you've heard the music ....

Will you now sing other people back to life and faith? There's a world out there dying because they haven't heard the music of God's love for them. Will you sing?

*By day the LORD directs his love; at night His song is with me-- a prayer to the God of my life. Psalm 42:8*