

## Jo's story (interviewed by Wendy Mann)

Wendy: God has been doing some amazing things among us recently with back conditions and the danger is that we can become a bit blasé. I want to encourage us not to be like that this morning, and to be faithful in praying for back conditions to be healed as every one of these miracles is an amazing thing. So can we welcome Jo Blake – this is an incredible story. Jo, you had an accident about 3 or 4 years ago and you really badly damaged your back. Can you tell everyone what happened and how it affected you?

Jo: I was ringing a mop out, and the ringer caved in. I didn't know, but I had dehydrated discs, and because of this incident I ended up with 5 discs out of place. Initially I was given pain killers and sent home. The pain increased over the following 4 weeks. I couldn't sleep because I couldn't lie down and was taking 27 pain killers a day. My leg and foot were swollen and I couldn't feel things being stuck in my leg e.g. a pin, yet it felt as if it was burning all the time and it got hotter if I lay down. Eventually the doctors at the hospital sorted my leg out and I began taking fewer pain killers, as the ones I was taking were stronger. After 8 months they decided it was time for an MRI, which showed there was a multi-level degenerative disc disease. I saw 3 different orthopaedic specialists and they said that an operation would not be the solution, so it was basically a question of pain management.

Wendy: So, a very difficult situation. You walked with a stick and had a lot of pain. About a month or two ago you came to church and Julian Adams was here and he prayed for you. Tell us what happened.

Jo: Julian and others prayed for me. I had taken off my shoe to see if I could feel my foot. I could feel my leg and was able to put my shoe back on while standing up. I was walking around without my stick. I folded it up and left here without using it. I got home and was showing off to my children, jumping up and down! I was able to run upstairs and skip round the garden. I didn't want to stop moving – before my injury I used to walk everywhere and then afterwards I had been restricted and scared of walking too far. We went for a picnic by the river that day. I danced by the river and spending that time with my children, walking and dancing, was priceless.

Wendy: You used to walk to your nan's with your stick – how long would that take you?

Jo: On a good day, it would take me 45 minutes. Now I've been healed, it takes me 10 minutes!