



GCC Pathfinders EPIC TIMES SPECIAL EDITION



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In this special edition of the GCC Pathfinders *EPIC TIMES*, the story of Josué Jiménez will touch your heart. This young man's fight for life and his mother's powerful faith are a strong testimony of God's healing power and strength in scary times.

Josué's Miracle

BY IRAZEMA MARTINEZ

The year was 2017, and Josué Jiménez was finishing the 8th grade. He was eagerly looking forward to August, when he would enter high school and play his saxophone in the school band. This was his dream. However, God had other plans for him.

On the 20th of July, Josué was struck with severe stomach pain, diarrhea, and a high fever. Simple medications brought no relief. Despite his ailments, he attended his first band practice on July 24. Later that day, Josué visited his pediatrician to find answers for his suffering. The doctor concluded that Josué's discomfort was caused by a combination of dehydration caused by prolonged sun exposure and a stomach infection. The doctor recommended Pedialyte and told Josué to drink a lot of water. However, the fever persisted. On July 28, Josué's worried mother once again took him to the doctor and requested that an x-ray be performed to find

further issues. The doctor agreed and Josué was sent to the hospital for the procedure.

That night, Josué's stomach pain increased, and his fever rose to 105. Josué's family rushed him to the emergency room, where he was immediately admitted and medical staff performed a CAT scan. The results of the scan were serious – Josué had cancer. The doctors were unsure what type of cancer and how serious it was, so they transferred Josué to a different hospital.

On August 1st, the results were in – Josué had acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in its early stages. The news hit Josué and his family hard. His father, far from the way of God at that time, sobbed through his grief. Josué cried too. He was uncertain how the cancer would affect him – would he lose his hair? Despite her sorrow, Josué's mother clung to her faith in God and resolved not to cry, to

encourage her son. The journey ahead was going to be a struggle, but she knew God would be with them.

Over the months of August, September, and October, Josué and his family were in and out of the hospital for chemotherapy treatments and weekly checkups. Love and support poured in from their family and church in the United States, and also from other parts of the world, including Argentina, Germany, Spain, Honduras, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

On October 11th, Josué was admitted to the hospital due to the toxicity that was building up from chemotherapy. His body was poisoning itself. October passed slowly. On October 26, Josué turned 15. Nurses tried to cheer him up by bringing him presents and a nice cake, but Josué was upset. His mother sought to bolster his courage.

“Trust in God, Josué,” she urged. “Accept His plan, even though we may not understand it.”

Thanksgiving Day arrived. Josué and his family joined some of the other patients who were celebrating with some Mexican food. Everyone ate and enjoyed a good time together. Little did they know that their faith would be put to a serious test that night.

At 10:20 p.m., as a nurse made her routine rounds, Josué experienced a serious medical complication. Immediately the nurse called for the doctor on duty. In less than 15 minutes, the doctor arrived and was present to witness Josué’s second episode of the complication. The doctor immediately declared a code blue (meaning that Josué was experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency). Josué’s mother knew that something was terribly wrong. Through her panicked tears, she begged medical staff to hurry with their work. She talked to Josué, knowing that he was listening to her even though he could not show it.

Five minutes passed. Then fifteen. Thirty. Finally, after 39 minutes of desperate working, medical staff were able to resuscitate Josué. After stabilizing him, they took him to the progressive care unit and kept him asleep so he could recover from the many electric shocks they had to administer to him. By the time other family members arrived, the worst was over.

After Josué’s brush with death, the pediatrician on duty approached his family.

“Prepare yourselves for the worst,” she said. “It took a long time for the child to breathe, and he may wake up with brain dam-

age or a physical impairment. There is a possibility he may not recognize you.”

The pediatrician’s words sounded so cruel to Josué’s mother. She replied, “You do your work as a doctor, and my God will do His work of raising my son.”

Not pleased with Josué’s mother’s response, the doctor shook her head and walked away.

Josué’s mother turned to her husband.

“Now is the time,” she urged. “Repent and ask God for forgiveness. Let us pray for our son with all our faith and ask Him to return our son to us again.”

They held hands in a little corner of the hospital and prayed to God with all their faith and asked for His mercy. They believed God was listening and that He would answer.

Within three hours, Josué’s parents were told that their son had awoken. They ran to his bedside.

Medical workers asked Josué, “Do you know who they are?”

“Yes,” answered Josué.

“Who are they?”

“My parents.”

“What are their names?”

“Irazema and Guillermo,” Josué replied.

The medical staff were shocked. “It is a true miracle!” they exclaimed. “No one who has gone without breathing for that long can wake up like this!”

Josué’s parents looked at each other and wept for joy and gladness. They knew that God had heard them.

Medical staff closely monitored Josué’s recovery from his near-death incident. They kept him connected to more than 21 pumps and cables to receive medicine and care. He was also hooked up to an artificial respirator to help him recover from his prolonged lack of oxygen. Doctors told Josué’s parents that Josué would need a respirator for a few months and that one would be sent home with him. However, God said no to this! After just three days, Josué’s lungs were working well and he was disconnected from the respirator.

Between November 24 and 28, Josué experienced a total of six cardiac arrests. The arrests would last between 3.5 to 10 minutes. Each time Josué’s body was attacked with these episodes, his mother and father, along with Adventist church members and non-Adventists, would pray that God would intervene. Josué’s mother

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would always tell the doctors, “I have faith that my son will walk out of here. Don’t give up, keep fighting with him.” One nurse remarked, “I admire the faith of that mother.” Josué’s mother gave God all the honor and glory.

December came. Once again, Josué was in the progressive care unit. This time he was suffering from a variety of complications, including fluid on his right lung, neuropathy, and Long QT syndrome. Josué fed from a tube in his side and breathed through a tracheostomy tube.

Christmas came and went, and the new year started. On January 3rd, Josué was released from the progressive care unit and only still used the tracheostomy tube. The doctor said that Josué would need it and would have to take it home with him. Once again, however, God said no! Within 8 days the tracheostomy tube was removed, and Josué could eat and talk on his own. He could do everything on his own!

On February 9th, Josué had the honor of sounding the hospital’s victory bell. He had spent the past 4 months in the hospital, fighting for his life, and he had won. Praise the Lord! What an exciting day it was when Josué could be wheeled out of the hospital in his wheelchair. Pastor Briton encouraged him, saying “Josué, I hope for that day when I see you running again!”

Josué’s experience provided many opportunities for testifying to the glory and honor of God. On one of Josué’s hospital visits, one of the oncologists asked, “What church do you attend?”

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church,” Josué’s mother replied.

“Keep attending,” said the oncologist, “and keep praying for God to answer your prayers. Josué had a very fast improvement that we cannot explain. We have not done much for him and he is

super well, even though he has suffered a lot. He looks strong and happy. I congratulate you.”

Several nurses also told the family that they had not believed in God, but after witnessing what happened to Josué, they had started to believe. Others said they had no faith in prayer, but after witnessing Josué’s miracles, they began to pray for the sick and grew to have faith in prayer after all. Others began to attend church when they had not before. Glory to God!

After his recovery, Josué had a wish – to go to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in August 2019. His family prayed that his walking would improve so that he could go, and God answered! Josué was able to attend the Oshkosh Camporee. There he was recognized by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference with a special gift for his recovery and his testimony of God’s healing and providence.

Josué’s mother now urges him, “You have to continue to give your testimony. God rose you from death and has given you a chance to live. For that, and many other things, you should be grateful.”

Josué is now part of the Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program in his Pathfinder club at the Brunswick Hispanic Church and was able to attend the TLT Convention in January 2020. He is interested in being a leader for young people and a worker for God. His next wish is to attend Southern Adventist University.

Irazema Martinez is Josué Jiménez’s mother.

The family of Josué Jiménez sincerely hopes that this testimony will serve to bring souls to Christ and lead you to trust in His blessed miracles. Just as God worked in the Jimenez family, He will work in yours.



Josué Jiménez with Pastor Fernando at Oshkosh.