

# "THEY ALL SHOUTED, 'MIRACLE! MIRACLE!'"

Taken from Christiana Wayo's Personal Testimony

*In 1968, while going down a flight of stairs in her Makurdi, Nigeria, home, Christiana Wayo slipped and fell down the last six steps striking her left knee sharply against the floor. Unable to get up by herself, she called to neighbors who came to her rescue. She was taken to the hospital where an elastic bandage was applied to the knee and then she was released.*

Back home, she was lying in bed when she was disturbed. In reacting, her injured knee somehow got wedged in the framework of a chair next to the bed and she cried out in pain. Tenants in the house came immediately and freed her knee which had started to swell. With the help of some pain relieving tablets, she was able to get through the night and on the following day was taken again to the hospital where she was admitted.

The knee, now very swollen, was drained of a fluid mixed with blood by an attending physician. X rays were taken and on the following day, Christiana was shown the results; the patella (kneecap) was broken into two pieces. A plaster cast was then applied and after one week, Christiana was discharged from the hospital.

Mrs. Wayo was supposed to remain in the cast for three months but because of her great discomfort, she asked and was allowed to have it removed after eight weeks. More X rays were taken but showed no change. Another cast was applied which she was to wear, this time, for six weeks.

At the end of the six weeks, the cast was removed and another set of

X rays showed there was no change in her condition. The doctor advised that there was nothing he could do but remove the kneecap. Since there were no facilities in that hospital for the prescribed operation, Christiana was referred to the Orthopedic Hospital at Kano. She was given a pair of crutches and released. The swelling was gone but the kneecap

stuck out in the flesh and she was unable to bend the knee.

After about seven months at home, Mrs. Wayo was visited by a hospital representative (theatre superintendent) who asked her if she would like to have the operation. She was told that it would not provide anymore mobility for the knee but that an artificial kneecap could be inserted at some future date if she so desired.

*Christiana is pictured with Bishop Murray of Makurdi Diocese, Nichodemus Ogbu (Nigeria's leading Garabandal promoter) and Susanna Oduah who was the tour leader when Christiana went to Garabandal in 1981.*



◀ *The "calleja" (rocky sunken lane) winds its way up to the pines. Christiana (inset), crawling on all fours, got almost as far as from where this picture was taken before she called on Our Lady for help.*

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She went to the hospital but being four months pregnant, was concerned whether or not the operation would affect the baby. When told no, she left it all in God's hands, gave her consent and signed the necessary forms.

## The Operation

Christiana was given a spinal injection but remained wide-awake as the operation began. In the reflector of the theatre lamp overhead, she watched as something smeared with blood was removed from her knee and she could hear what the doctors were saying. That was all she remembered as fear and the effects of the medication made her unconscious.

When she came to in the ward a few hours later, the surgeon showed her the two pieces—one smaller than the other—of the kneecap that had been removed. Her leg was now in another plaster cast, lighter than the previous ones and with an opening around the knee for air to accelerate the healing process. After one month in the hospital the cast and stitches were removed. The wound had healed well and she was taught some exercises to straighten the knee. More X rays were taken, one set of which was given to her along with the documents\* to be presented if she chose to have the future operation for an artificial kneecap.

But Christiana could not, at the time, afford to travel 600 miles for more treatments. She had no more pain but could not stand on her left leg which was stiff when she walked and made climbing stairs very difficult. Her condition remained

\*Unfortunately, after keeping the X ray and documents for about six years, Christiana, not imagining that they would be of any future use, discarded them with some old books and letters when she moved into a new house.

unchanged for the next 13 years.

## The Trip to Garabandal

On July 19, 1981, Christiana embarked for London with a group of Nigerians led by Mrs. Susanna Oduah. There they were to team up with Mrs. Nadege Baco's group that was going to Garabandal. After the long flight to England, a boat ride to Brittany and a bus trip to Spain, they finally arrived the evening of July 20 in the village of San Sebastian de Garabandal.

On the following morning after breakfast, Christiana joined the other tour members who were going up to the pines to say the rosary. Two Nigerian girls supported her during the difficult climb up the rocky incline known as the *calleja*. She managed to make it and after the rosary went down again supported by the two youngsters.

## "Miracle! Miracle!"

At 4:00 p.m., the group again went up to the pines to pray but the two girls who had helped Christiana that morning had gone ahead of her. Mrs. Wayo tried to make it on her own but could not get very far. Trying to crawl on all fours, she made a mental prayer to Our Lady asking for help. Suddenly, she felt a surge of power in her leg! Then, feeling very light ("as though someone were aiding me from the back"), she walked up the steep and difficult trail to the pines. Once there, she joined the others in the recitation of the rosary—kneeling on both knees! Christiana relates what happened next:

I was not aware that anything had happened to me. Since the others had finished their prayers before I did, I had to go back down alone. When I got to the place [in the *calleja*] where the angel had appeared to the children, it occurred to me that I had walked from this point up to the pines as though I had been

supported. Full of joy, I called Susanna, the leader of our group to tell her what had happened to me. Then I jumped up, knelt, bent down in an attempt to sweep as we do at home, and I did all this with ease. When I told the group the story of my knee, we all rejoiced and thanked Our Lady! They all shouted, "Miracle! Miracle!" and asked Susanna to tell Mrs. Baco.

During the bus ride back to Brittany, the cure of Mrs. Wayo's knee was the principal topic of discussion. They arrived in London on August 7.

On the following morning, Christiana rose at about 5:00 a.m., to say her morning prayers. She recounts her experience:

While in prayer, an interior feeling seemed to be saying, "touch your right knee, touch your right knee." I paused and touched my right knee. I felt a moveable hardness [kneecap]. I then sat flat on the floor and compared both knees. Each had a kneecap! I knocked on Susanna's door but she had gone to Mass. This was about 7:00 a.m. I went back to my room wondering . . . When Susanna came in, I called her to witness what had happened to my knee. We were both surprised and astonished.

We returned to Nigeria on August 11, 1981. Ever since I have been able to kneel comfortably, stand up from kneeling without any support, and can pray on my knees for any length of time. What I feel now in my knee I had not felt prior to August 7, 1981. In fact, I now have more strength in this leg than the other one.

An X ray of the leg showing the kneecap was sent to Prof. Manuel Lopez-Linares of Madrid who has been charged with collecting data on cures associated with Garabandal.

We can all rejoice and give thanks to God for Christiana Wayo's inexplicable cure, and in seeing how and where it took place, may it be for us a sign, a foreshadowing, of the innumerable prodigies that Our Lord will perform in that very same spot on the day of the great prophesied Miracle. □

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