

Pastor Shot 6 Times Tells His Miraculous Story of Survival

Read Time: 3 Minutes 26 Seconds

Pastor Tim Remington had a shattered shoulder, a collapsed lung, burns throughout his body and a bullet lodged in his skull. It all began when Tim walked out of his church and into the crosshairs of a deranged gunman.

It was a mystery why someone would gun down Pastor Remington in his church parking lot in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. But now, it was up to paramedics to keep him alive.

Paramedic Eric Paul found the pastor bleeding from multiple gunshot wounds and a collapsed right lung. He inserted a temporary chest tube to help him breathe.

"We fixed the one immediate problem we can fix in the field. We gave him some fluid boluses, and then it's time to go to the hospital," Paul says.

Tim was taken to Kootenai Health emergency room. His wife Cindy arrived and they had a brief moment together.

"I said 'I love you,' he said 'I love you,'" Cindy recalls. "It was so hard for him to breathe, so hard for him to speak. Three times he said to tell the children that he loves them. I said, 'Do you know what happened?' And he shook his head. And I said, 'Well, you got shot.'"

An evening news anchor explained the gravity of his injuries, saying, "Remington was shot six times, one of the bullets shattered his shoulder. Another lodged into the soft tissue of his skull, just centimeters away from killing him."

The pastor was also hit in the arm and pelvis. Attending surgeon Dr. Bob Hollman said amazingly no vital organs were

damaged but one injury was life-threatening.

"The major concern was the amount of blood he was losing from the pelvic injuries," Dr. Hollman recalls. "You fracture pelvic bones and you could bleed to death from a pelvic fracture."

Dr. Hollman and his team took Tim into surgery immediately to stop the bleeding. The only promise they made was that they would do their best. But as Cindy prayed, she knew that Tim's life was in God's hands.

Cindy says, "Honest and truly, you find out there is a peace that passes all understanding, and His name is Jesus and that really is what happened. Everything went very still."

"I really wasn't afraid. I didn't feel like Tim was going to die," she recalls.

After eight hours of surgery, Tim woke up in the ICU.

"When I knew that I was alive, then I knew that God was definitely in it and there was a reason," Tim says. "And I didn't know the reason, but I knew that He was in control of it at that point."

In the meantime, the gunman had been identified as Kyle Odom. Two days after the shooting he was arrested for throwing papers over the White House fence accusing Pastor Remington as the head of an alien conspiracy. But there would be no public outcry for justice. Instead, Tim's church and the City of Coeur d'Alene held a prayer vigil for Tim and the shooter that sent out a message of love and forgiveness.

Tim says, "They all said and communicated what I wanted them to say: 'We do not hate Kyle at all. We need to love him and we need to bring him to Jesus.'"

But there were more battles to fight. A week later doctors discovered a bullet had left a small hole in Tim's colon and

rushed him into surgery. Dr. Timothy Quinn was the surgeon on call that day.

“The colon has all kinds of bacteria in there and it was leaking and it gave him peritonitis,” Dr. Quinn says. “I didn’t think it was safe to repair it so we had to exteriorize it as a colostomy so we could get the infection under control. So that’s a big deal.”

Cindy, their children and their church family knew what needed to be done.

“We asked the Lord to rebuke the enemy on Tim’s behalf and you know, He did. And He kept doing that. The Lord kept protecting him, kept providing what was needed,” Cindy says.

After two weeks the infection cleared and doctors reversed the colostomy. Tim was discharged, but not long after he got home, he suffered a stroke. The Remington family continued to trust God.

“I didn’t have to keep saying, ‘Jesus, be with us. Jesus, be with us.’ He was with us. And that constant faithfulness of the Lord, and the fact that He loves us all the time, no matter what. Hard days, no matter how big the challenge is, and that was a big one, no matter how big it is, He loves us and he’s with us,” Cindy says.

Tim says, “God preserved me, He saved me. And it was a miracle. Absolute miracle.”

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