By Jim Langham

My heart melted beyond description recently when I read the response to "things to be thankful for" on a Facebook account.

It was based on the story of a woman who was taken to a Fort Wayne hospital earlier this year with a massive aneurism, fell into a deep coma, and was presumed by doctors to be in a state where she would not recover.

Ironically, I was there visiting someone else the night her family was called into her intensive care room to say their final words to a beloved mother and wife. Her lifeless body was supported by various measures. Doctors had told family members once those were unhooked, it would probably represent her passing.

The dark day came for removal of tubes and support system, but she continued to live, the next day, and the next, for several days. Several days later on a Sunday morning, an "inner voice" spoke to her husband; "If she is going to continue to fight to live, then we're going to summon some hope and fight with her." Then, that morning when he went in to see her, he was stunned to see that her caring nurse for the day wore the name tag "Hope."

Not only that, but his wife had blinked her eyes that afternoon, as though "something" were different.

On Monday, she started to come out of the coma. Her room was filled with amazed nurses and doctors who were debating whether or not to change her diagnosis. By Tuesday, she was fully awake, confused somewhat, disoriented, but very responsive. The diagnosis changed quickly and appropriate measures were taken to offer full support to her body.

Wednesday, I was totally honored and humbled. I returned to visit our church member; as I walked past her door, I looked in and she looked at me. The nurse invited me in to see her for a moment. As I approached her, she got a radiant smile and said, "Jim!" I offered to have prayer, she reached for my hand as the warmth of returning life flowed from her hand to mine. I left with indescribable feelings; I had stood in the presence of a miracle in progress ... an unexplained healing was in progress and I had been given the humbling honor of watching God work one of His choice gifts to a friend and family.

Over the next several weeks, she was transferred to therapy and eventually to the home many had felt she would never see again. In late July, she rode in a local parade, with grateful waves of appreciation, thanks to the community that had supported her in prayer (thousands from all the world via Facebook) and radiated the radiant smile we had all come to appreciate from her.

But her healing had only begun. Bible verses, notes of appreciation and deep, deep observations of "life on this side of the miracle" began to appear on her Facebook site. It was obvious that she had entered another realm, a spiritual dimension where she was observing a new life through the eyes of God in ways that way too few people note in a lifetime.

In my heart, this past week, she made an observation of just how rich her total healing has been.

There was a request on Facebook to list something to be most thankful for that day. Unedited, but deeply honored and appreciated, the transformed lady wrote, "Find something to be thankful for everyday! When I woke up from my coma, I had to practically relearn how to do everything from dressing myself to walking to writing my name. It was overwhelming at times. When the nurses taught me how to get dressed, they told me to sit down to put on my pants. That made it much easier. Let me tell you, putting on a bra was no easy task, but I finally got it! This morning when I was getting dressed, I put on my pants without sitting down. I didn't even think about it! I know it sounds silly, but it's a big deal when you can't do it! That is what I'm thankful for today!"

"Putting on her pants without sitting down," Wow, my heart is deeply touched, and saddened for all that I take for granted. Thank you Lord for the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, another day to experience your ways, butterflies, cardinals, the beautiful bursting smile of a close friend, friendship, worship, your Word, warm hands, precious memories and hope ... real hope, hope that makes us thankful for every detail of life!

Just	what	are	you	thankful	for	today?
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