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God is Bigger

By Teresa Hampton

Watching the Winter Olympics is ritual in our home. Figure skating is a favorite. This year gold medalist Scott Hamilton and other commentators evaluated performances. His *personal* story is fascinating.

When he was a child he had a mysterious condition that kept him from growing naturally. During a respite from hospital stays, he and his mother went to an ice rink and he promptly fell in love with skating. As a young man he won 16 consecutive world titles, including an Olympic gold. But in 1977 his life turned upside down when his mother died with cancer. He began to reflect on the meaning or purpose of life. He met a young woman, Tracey, who led him to study with a minister of the church of Christ. He was baptized and his love for the Lord, and Tracey, grew.

Scott's world rocked again in 1997. He was diagnosed with cancer and told that if he lived, he would probably never have children. With Tracey and the Lord by his side, he went through the necessary treatments and became cancer free. They married and he says, "Our son was born nine months and two days later."

When the baby was fourteen months old, their world turned upside down again. Doctors told Scott he had a brain tumor. A biopsy revealed it to be a non cancerous pituitary tumor he was born with, and was responsible for his stunted growth. Scott said, "At that moment I *chose* to look at the brain tumor as the greatest gift I could have gotten, because it made *everything* else possible." Treatments were successful. Unfortunately, six years later the cancer returned. Again, they fought it with the Lord's guidance, putting their complete trust in Him. Following intense therapies, he was cancer free *and...*they were blessed with another son!

Scott said his relationship with Jesus was what kept him and his wife going. "God is there to guide you through the tough spots." His story reminds us of several things: trials can help us grow spiritually, if we let them (James 1:2-4); adversities can become stepping stones to great achievements (Dan. 2:48); true, committed love, endures all things (1Cor. 13:4-7); and finally, our God is bigger than science and cancer, *Things which are impossible with men are possible with God* (Luke 18:27).

Today's Verse: *'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. (Jer. 32:17). Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths (Prov. 3:5).*

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