

The Boy Who Sees—

"Ronnie"
Coyne—

with a
Plastic Eye!



July 1953
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his age under normal
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are possible.

N.R. Morris, D.D.



IT WAS DURING the month of May, 1950, that the Coyne family moved to Sapulpa, Oklahoma. One day in August of that year, while the mother was taking a nap, she was aroused by a cry coming from her son, Ronald, who was down the street a short distance. His brother came in and said Ronald had stuck a wire into his eye.

At first the mother thought little about it, but the boy continued to cry and late in the afternoon she noticed a white spot on the eyeball. Immediately the parents took the boy to a doctor and later to one of the best eye specialists in Tulsa, Dr. Otis Lee, at the Springer Clinic. He realized the seriousness of the accident and rushed the boy to St. John's hospital.

PARENTS ARE ADVISED EYE BALL MUST BE REMOVED

A few days later the mother was notified that the eye could not be saved and would have to come out. She refused the doctor's request but agreed to come to the hospital. Arriving there she looked into the eye, while Ronald was asleep, and saw that it was white and cloudy. Then she realized that the sight was gone. Surgery was then performed in an attempt to save the eye, but it was discovered, during the operation, that an abscess had formed and there was no way to drain it. The mother was informed that Ronald

might lose the other eye, or he might even lose his life, if the infected eyeball was not removed.

RONALD IS FITTED WITH A PLASTIC EYE

During these hours the mother desperately held on to God, hoping that the eye might not be lost. She would not give her consent to the removal of the eyeball but finally her husband gave his permission for the operation to proceed. A plastic eye was fitted, to take the place of the eye which was removed. Four days afterwards, Ronald came home. For ten months, sight was totally gone in his right eye. The eyeball, is the camera of the eye and, after that is removed, there can be no sight. At least, medical science (up to this date) has never recorded any one seeing after the eyeball was gone.

M.D. CONFIRMS MIRACLE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RONALD R. COYNE, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, was examined by me and I tested his sight both with the plastic eye in and also with it removed. He can see either way and is able to read each way. He can read anything other children of his age can read. His sight is normal for his age.

Truly this is a miracle of GOD. There is no other answer.

(SIGNED) Robert E. Aelmore, M.D.
Hutchinson, Kansas

(Photostatic copy of this affidavit on file in THE VOICE OF HEALING office.)

RONALD CONVERTED AT A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

About this time Ronald began to get anxious about his soul. He asked his mother the question, "If Jesus comes to night, will I be ready?" Shortly after this, he went to a Daily Vacation Bible School and one day he came home with a big smile and said, "Mother, I got saved!"

AFTER PRAYER OF FAITH — RONALD SEES AGAIN WITH BOTH EYES!

About two weeks after Ronald was saved, the family began attending a revival in Sapulpa, sponsored by Rev. Lonnie Osborn (brother of Evangelist T. L. Osborn). Ronald had an infection in his tonsils, so his mother told him to go up and be prayed for, not wanting to have the tonsils removed by surgery. The lady evangelist, Sister Gillock (sister of Evangelist Osborn) prayed for him and then noticed that something was wrong with his eye. She asked the boy if he believed the Lord could heal his eye. She didn't know the eyeball had been removed, but thought the plastic one she saw was a real eye. When Ronald said he believed he could be healed, she prayed that he could see. And God heard the prayer of faith!

RONALD BEGAN TO SEE OBJECTS, with his right eye! First he saw the steps, then the microphone, and then was able to count fingers.

All were astonished who knew the facts. The parents and others tested him for four days. The absolute conclusion was the boy was seeing!

NEWSPAPERS CARRY STORY OF MIRACLE

Soon the news spread. The local newspaper wrote an article on the healing. Reporters came from the Tulsa World and the Tulsa Tribune and these papers carried the story. About this time, the Lord visited the mother and told her to "Go and tell the people." At first she did not know how she could do this. However, since that time, she has taken Ronald to many meetings, and the demonstration has been made, to vast audiences, of what God has done.

AUTHENTICITY OF MIRACLE TESTED AT TVH CONVENTION

At the Dallas VOICE OF HEALING Convention in December, 1952, Ronald stood before the congregation and showed the people how he was able to see through the plastic eye. The Editor of THE VOICE OF HEALING personally tested the boy a number of times, and there was no doubt in his mind that the boy was able to see equally well with the plastic eye in, or the plastic eye out. *It was in fact a continuous miracle!*

JESUS REFUSED TO PERFORM MIRACLES FOR UNBELIEF

There is an odd principle about God's

manifestation of the miraculous. When Jesus healed during His earthly ministry, He performed most amazing miracles for those who came humbly to Him. The blind who had never seen received their sight. Cripples from birth, walked, after receiving the command to rise; even the dead were raised. However, *Jesus flatly refused to perform miracles for unbelief or to satisfy vain curiosity.* The unbelieving Jews came to Him and asked for a sign from heaven. The request was refused. Herod the king asked for a miracle. Jesus would not even talk with him. They brought a blind man to Him in unbelieving Bethsaida, and Jesus would not heal him until he had taken the man out of the city.

SKEPTICS DO NOT SEE THE MIRACULOUS

God still holds to this principle today. Occasionally, when a rank skeptic has come to test the child, or if he is handled roughly or "cowed" by a strong personality, the eye may temporarily go blind. However, after the skeptic leaves, sight returns. On one occasion charges were brought against the boy that he could not see and that he was a "fake." It was claimed that Ronald slyly looked out of

the corner of his good eye that was supposed to be covered, and thus was able to see.

TVH EDITOR MAKES TEST OF AUTHENTICITY OF MIRACLE FOR RECORD

The officials of a large Full Gospel movement delegated the Editor of THE VOICE OF HEALING to make a thorough investigation of the matter.

The Editor, having previously made the test of Ronald Coyne's miraculous sight, knew beyond any contradiction that the boy had been able to see, but, of course, there is the possibility that one may lose his healing. Lazarus was well and strong when Jesus was in the home but, when He had gone, Lazarus became sick unto death. Taking Brothers Alton Hayes and Joseph De Grado with him, the Editor of TVH drove to Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and there made the test in the presence of these brethren. They all tested the boy's ability to see out of his right eye, and all saw that there was not the slightest doubt that the boy could see, and *could see equally well out of both eyes!* Knowing that some thought the boy was seeing out of the corner

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Baffling Boy 'Sees,' Reads With Plastic Eye; Youngster, Optometrist Agree It's 'God's Gift'

Ronald Coyne, 9,
Astounds Audience

By GEORGE BURNHAM

Nine-year-old Ronald Coyne, faced with the impossibility of seeing with a plastic eye after his right eyeball had been removed, apparently goes ahead and sees anyway.

Ronald has a simple explanation:

"God gave me the power to see through the plastic eye."

The right eye of the youngster from Sapulpa, Okla., was removed in 1930 after an infection caused by a wire stuck in the eye. Ronald and his mother said his sight was recovered in the eye at a religious service several months later.

Doubters, naturally, are plentiful. Such a thing just can't be. When an eyeball is removed, sight is gone, according to doctors.

But Ronald is ready to give a demonstration to all who doubt.

Each night this week in an evangelistic revival being conducted here by the Rev. Thea F. Jones in a tent on Dodds Avenue, Ronald has read everything offered to him by persons who came up out of the audience.

N. R. Morris of Chattanooga, doctor of optometry and doctor of optometric science, attended the service last night by request and held a private examination of Ronald.

The doctor's statement is as follows:

"With no receptive organ and eye completely removed, his ability to read was demonstrated with foreign reading material. It was read as satisfactorily as could be expected from a child his age, under normal circumstances.

"There is absolutely no scientific

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RONALD READS—Ronald Coyne, 9, who has nothing but plastic in his right eye, reads with the eye while Reporter George Burnham covers his good eye.—(Staff Photo by John Goforth.)

BOY, EYE GONE, SEES ANYWAY

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Explanation for this marvelous phenomenon. This can only be: "spiritual gift."

"Under God all things are possible."

Things were given Ronald to read that he had never seen before. They were offered by Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians and members of other denominations. The boy is appearing at a Church of God revival sponsored by the Missionary Ridge Church of God. Photographer John Goforth handed him a sentence which he read: "My name is John Goforth and I am a photographer for The Chattanooga News-Free Press." He can also read with the plastic eye removed.

Here's how Ronald's story came to light here this week:

Reporter Julius Parker was told by a friend about the boy. He passed on the information to his city editor, who suggested that I go out and see what was happening at the services.

I talked with Ronald and his mother. At my request, and with his good left eye completely covered, he read from my Bible Joshua 1:8. He then read serial numbers from money orders and social security cards.

SANITY SUSPECTED

Returning to the office next morning, I told the city editor and other interested reporters what had happened. It looked for awhile as if I would have to get an affidavit that I hadn't gone nuts.

To check the story further, Reporter Parker and his friend, Dr. Morris, accompanied me to the service last night. They, too, had Ronald demonstrate his strange gift.

"This thing makes chills run up and down your back," stated Parker.

"It's amazing," commented the doctor. "There is absolutely nothing in the eye except fatty tissue. The organ has been entirely removed."

Ronald's mother, who is here with him, said that her son was given his sight to show the power of God and to lead others to Jesus Christ. "Give all the credit to God," she stated.

This is what she had to say of the occasion on which Ronald reportedly received his sight.

"Ronald had an infected throat and we were having a citywide meeting in Sapulpa conducted by a lady evangelist, Sister Gillock."

"Why don't you go up and be prayed for and then you won't have

to go to the hospital to have your tonsils removed," I told him. That suited him fine because the hospital was like jail to him, since he couldn't go home when he wanted to each night.

"He went through the healing line to have his tonsils prayed for but after praying the lady evangelist asked him what was wrong with his eye. He told her that he was blind and she asked him if he believed that the Lord could heal his eye. He told her he did believe that the Lord could. She didn't know that his real eyeball had been removed and the ball she saw was just a plastic eye so she commanded the blinded eye to see in the name of Jesus. God heard that prayer of faith."

"Ronald began to see objects. First he could see steps, then the microphone, and then he could count fingers. Now I was doing alright when she was praying for his tonsils, but when she began to pray for the eye I froze. My daughter, Carol, and I both tried to tell Sister Gillock that Ronald had a plastic eye, but the power of God was so strong that I had to either sit down or fall. God didn't intend for me to tell that it was a plastic eye; I finally sat down."

"I finally got it said after he had already begun to see. He can't possibly see; it's a plastic eye." Sister Gillock slapped her face in astonishment. "Why didn't you tell me?" Most humans wouldn't have asked God to do the impossible and she was just human, but her husband began to jump up and down shouting. "It's a miracle, it's a miracle."

"God later told me to go and tell the people." That is what Ronald and I are doing now.

"He goes to school and will enter the fifth grade next year. His eyes were being tested in school one day and the examiner marked it down that he was blind in the right eye since it had been removed. Donald spoke up and said he wasn't blind in that eye. The examiner gave it a test and found that both eyes were 20-20."

The service tonight at 7:30 will be the last one in which Ronald will appear here. The tent is located on Dodds Avenue in the Lakeview section.

His mother will tell all about it.

She adds: "I know that Ronnie can see and I don't waste time worrying about how he does it. We just accept it and say, 'Thank you, Jesus.'"

CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

Published Each Afternoon—Except Sunday

Chattanooga, Tenn

THE VOICE OF HEALING • February, 1954

Amazing Answers to Prayer

bring us to our desired haven. It was a new Psalm to me from that hour. The *eleventh verse* touched me very deeply. It was like a voice of Divine assurance, and it seemed a very real thing as I read: *'He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.'* Surely He did it! I read also from Psalm 107:20-31. One lady thought those words must have been written for the occasion, and afterwards asked to see the book for herself. A German translated verse by verse as I read, for the benefit of his countrymen.

HAD THOUGHT MYSELF SUPERIOR TO FEAR OF DEATH

"I was passing through a new experience. I had thought myself superior to the fear of death. I had often preached on the subject, and urged Christians to realize this victory of faith. During the Civil War I had been under fire without fear. I was in Chicago during the great cholera epidemic, and went around with the doctors visiting the sick and dying; where they could go to look after the bodies of men, I said I could go to look after their souls. I remember a case of smallpox where the sufferer's condition was beyond description, yet I went to the bedside of that poor sufferer again and again, with Bible and prayer, for Jesus' sake. In all this I had no fear of death.

"But on the sinking ship it was different. There was no cloud between my soul and my Saviour. I knew my sins had been put away, and that if I died there it would only be to wake up in Heaven. That was all settled long ago. But as my thoughts went out to my loved ones at home—my wife, my children, my friends on both sides of the sea, the schools and all the interests so dear to me—and as I realized that perhaps the next hour would separate me forever from all these, so far as this world was concerned, I confess it

almost broke me down. It was the darkest hour of my life.

RELIEF CAME IN PRAYER

"I could not endure it. I must have relief, and relief came in prayer. God heard my cry, and enabled me to say, from the depth of my soul, 'Thy will be done!' Sweet peace came to my heart. I went to bed, fell asleep almost immediately, and never slept more soundly in all my life. *'Out of the depths I cried unto my Lord, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.'* I can no more doubt that


God gave answer to my prayer for relief than I can doubt my own existence.

RESCUE SHIP SIGHTED!

"About three o'clock at night I was aroused from my sound sleep by my son's voice: 'Come on deck, father,' he said. I followed him and he pointed to a far-off light, rising and sinking on the sea. It was a messenger of deliverance to us. It proved to be the light of the steamer Lake Huron, bound from Montreal to Liverpool, whose lookout had seen our signals of distress and supposed it was a vessel in flames. Oh, the joy of that moment when these seven hundred despairing passengers beheld the approaching ship! Who can ever forget it!

GOD'S RESCUE SHIP TOOK US SAFELY INTO PORT

"But now the question was, can this small steamer tow the helpless Spree a thousand miles to Queenstown? Every moment was passed in the most intense anxiety and prayer. It was a brave and perilous undertaking. The vessels were at last connected by two great cables. If a storm arose these would snap like a thread, and we must be left to our fate. But I had no fear. God would finish the work He had begun. The waves were calmed, the cables held, our steamer moved in the wake of the Huron. There were storms all about us, but they came not nigh our broken ship. Seven days after the accident, by the good hand of our God upon us, we were able to hold a joyous thanksgiving service in the harbor of Queenstown. The rescuing ship that God sent to us in our distress had just sufficient power to tow our steamer and just enough coal to take her into port. Her captain was a man of prayer; he besought God's help to enable them to accomplish their dangerous and difficult task; and God answered the united prayers of the distressed voyagers, and brought us to our desired haven."



MEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD?

By
Gordon Lindsay

PRICE \$1.50

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JOHN KNOX	WILLIAM BOOTH
GEORGE FOX	

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"RONNIE" COYNE—The Boy Who Sees—With a Plastic Eye!

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of the good eye when it was supposed to be covered, we took special precautions to prevent that possibility, **YET THE BOY SAW PERFECTLY, WHETHER THE PLASTIC EYE WAS IN, OR REMOVED.** The Editor's wife was also present when the tests were made.

We then took the boy and his mother to another city, where Evangelists Verner Gardner and Clifton Erickson were, and they were permitted to make tests which thoroughly proved to them that the boy was able to see. We offered to bring the boy before those who had requested us to make the investigation, for their personal observation. They replied that they would accept our report without reservation. (This they confirmed later in a written statement.)

Eye specialists and physicians have tested the boy and have given written statements attesting to their finding that the boy was and is able to see! Yet we found it to be true that, if a man is a skeptic or if filled with a spirit of unbelief, the boy may not see in his presence. This is also true, if the eye is handled roughly.

TESTS BY DOCTORS AND NURSES PROVE BOTH EYES HAVE 20-20 VISION

During the investigation, the boy was taken to several physicians and, in a couple of cases, a curious result took place. Ronald was taken to Dr. M— in a city in Missouri, who has an established eye practice. Believe it or not, this doctor failed to notice that the eye was plastic, but recommended a treatment which, in the course of time, he thought would bring the eye up to normal!

Another doctor, who was an unbeliever in Christianity, had his nurse make the test (no information being given concerning the eye except that we wished to have a test made as to the boy's ability to

see). THE NURSE MADE SEVERAL TESTS AND GAVE HIM A RATING OF 20-20 VISION. The doctor, after stating that he had perfect confidence in the nurse's ability to make an accurate test, noticed that the boy's eye was plastic. He shouted to the nurse to make the test again. *Still the boy could see!* With that the doctor became angry and walked over to the boy, shouted at him, and handled him roughly. Ronald's sight then failed. *Half an hour later his vision returned, and we found by a test that it was as good as ever!*

Of course, this doctor was an exception. Other physicians, who have faith that God is able to perform a miracle, examined Ronald's ability to see and have given statements testifying to the miracle. (See statements, on page 6.)

It is quite evident that the miracle has not been performed by God to convert skeptics who do not want to believe. It has not been given for the purpose of exploitation. *The miracle is given to build the faith of those who want to believe!* It is evident that those who make the test themselves should not bring with them a person who has a spirit of unbelief.

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WHEN GOD SMILED

on

RONALD COYNE

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