



Story behind *On the Other Side* *Stories of Faith: 12 Songs Inspired by You!*

Tami Kimet had just given birth to her second child, Brooke. By all accounts the little girl was healthy. But twenty-seven days later something was wrong. On the way to Hamot Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania, Brooke stopped breathing. Tami pulled into the hospital crying for help. Medical personnel scrambled. In the ER Tami dropped to her knees and prayed, “God, please do whatever it takes... whatever’s wrong with her, give it to me... let her live!” This simple, heartfelt prayer set the stage for what was to come. Brooke stabilized just as the helicopter was landing.

A month or so later it was Tami who did not feel well. Her husband encouraged her to see a doctor. In the hospital, monitoring equipment revealed that she just had a small heart attack and needed open-heart surgery. Thinking of her husband and two young children, she was terrified. Her doctor, Christopher Strzalka, reassured her, “Let’s pray about this.” She knew she was not only in good hands, but in God’s hands.

The surgery went well, without any complications. When she awoke they sat her up. However within moments she knew again that something was wrong. Her blood pressure began to drop while blood poured out drainage tubes placed in her from the surgery. Dr. Strzalka and team rushed her back to the operating room.

Among the medical personnel wearing scrubs Tami was struck by a gentleman wearing a backwards baseball cap and a cross around his neck. He stood by and reassured her that everything would be ok. She doubted. She was in too much pain.

No sooner did they open her up when her heart stopped. Attention turned from finding the source of bleeding to getting her heart going again. She was immediately dying, if not already dead. While completely unconscious, and eyes closed, she could “see” everything. Next thing she knew, the “gentleman” was above her, extending his hand for her to join him.

She took his hand and in a moment was above her body, completely relieved of any pain. She saw them all scrambling, and Dr. Strzalka massaging her heart to get it going again. A moment later she was consumed by a warm, bright light, and found herself going down a

tunnel where she encountered various scenes and people in her life. It was an overwhelming, indescribable feeling of love and peace, like that of a mother with her first-born child. While continuing to work on her heart, Dr. Strzalka prayed.

When hospital personal informed her family that it wasn't looking good, they ran up the street to a chapel and began praying. While there, an unlikely gentleman with a cross around his neck and a backwards baseball cap approached her sister. He informed her that Tami would be ok, that they should return to the hospital.

Tami's Angel returned and told her she had to go back. She protested. Consumed by so much love, once you are there you never want to leave. All the things you worry about down here simply don't matter up there, and you have all those people waiting for you. Once you leave that place, you've lost a lot. Her Angel threw her back into her body and she was immediately overcome by the pain. Her heart began beating again.

They told her family that if she did make it, it was unlikely she would ever be a functioning person again. Several hours after the surgery, Dr. Strzalka was stunned that she was able to talk. With vivid detail she described her experience. Dr. Strzalka called it "chilling." Four days later he was absolutely amazed to watch her walk from the hospital.

Tami is now into the seventh year of a life experts said she'd never have, and treats each new day as an undeserved gift. She believes she was sent back with a purpose. She tells us not to be afraid of what's on the other side—she's been there. She tells us that God will handle everything, if we just give him a chance. She says, "Don't live like you're dying, live like you're living."

There's more to the story! Get your BOARDING PASS now and receive full access to our K2H Theater where Tami and Dr. Strzalka tell the full story in their own words. It's fast, free and secure!

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