

## A Brickyard Miracle

At the 1997 Brickyard 400 auto race, NASCAR driver Lake Speed learned first-hand the amazing effect of prayer. His car had been having mechanical problems. Sitting on the track in preparation for a qualifying run, he waited in frustration because his car wouldn't start. Meanwhile, he prayed. Finally, his crew chief Jeff Buice took out a wrench and hand-cranked the engine Model-A style. The car started, and Lake Speed roared onto the track to post the second fastest qualifying time of the day.

Victor Lee wrote in "Sports Spectrum:" Later, when Speed returned to the pits to get ready for a final practice session, he found his crew tearing out the engine. Shocked, he asked what was going on. "Lake, that engine was blown before you qualified," Buice said, noting that it had blown during NASCAR pre-race inspection. Lake looked closer. Oil was everywhere.

Buice continued, "I wasn't going to tell you anything, because time had run out. But I was already trying to figure out how I was going to spend Saturday. Even if it started, I surely didn't expect it to make a lap, and surely not to run good enough to make the race."

Speed's assessment: "God did a major mechanical miracle. I always pray right before the race. Sitting on that track, when it didn't start, I prayed, 'Lord, I don't know what's going on here, but if there's any way, I'd like this thing to start.'" Driver Lake Speed went on to finish 12th in the race -- his second-best finish in 1997.

You may say this has a perfectly natural explanation, or you may call it a miracle. But without question, according to the automobile experts on the scene, this was a remarkable event that followed prayer. Funny, but remarkable events and "coincidences" often follow prayer.

And the story shows that God cares about the events of our everyday world, whether in the centers or homes where we serve, within our families or wherever He may lead us.

--Beecher Hunter