

# Alcides Moreno: A True Miracle

Do you believe in miracles? I do.

Dr. Albert Einstein once said, “There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

Now I wouldn't dare argue with Dr. Einstein's thought process, but there is a third alternative. Yes, everything in life is a miracle, but we need to leave room for those rare instances that occur every once in a while, when something so extraordinary happens that there seems to be no other explanation than God's intervention in somebody's life in a wonderful way, and something that wasn't supposed to happen did.

Consider the story of Alcides Moreno. By every law of physics and medicine, Moreno should be dead. Moreno was a window washer on the towering skyscrapers high above Manhattan. He rode platforms with his brother, Edgar, high into the sky to wash the windows of those skyscrapers. From his perch, he could look down to see the pavement far below where the people looked like ants.

On Dec. 7, 2007, catastrophe struck the Moreno family. As the two brothers worked on the 47<sup>th</sup> story of the luxury Solow Tower building in Manhattan's Upper East Side, their platform collapsed, and the brothers fell from the sky. Edgar died from the fall, but Alcides survived.



At street level, firefighters and paramedics found a harrowing scene. Edgar Moreno had landed on a wooden fence. His body was severed, and he couldn't be helped. Alcides Moreno was found crouching among a pile of twisted metal, clutching the scaffold controls. Still breathing, he is said to have tried, unsuccessfully, to stand up.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital and induced into a coma. He had sustained injuries to his brain, spinal column, chest and abdomen, and had fractures to his ribs, right arm and both legs. He underwent numerous operations, including having a catheter inserted in his brain to reduce swelling. He received 24 pints of blood.

(more)

“If you’re looking for a medical miracle, this certainly qualifies,” said Dr. Herbert Pardes, who was then president and CEO of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. “The survival rate even from a four-story fall is not very good.”

Dr. Glenn Asaeda from the New York City Fire Department said, “A higher hand was in control here.”

Moreno received a substantial compensation payout, and he and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where, he said, the warm weather is good for his bones. “I have all the scars on my body, and because of the back injuries, I can’t run, only walk. I’m not like I used to be. But thank God, I can walk; that is amazing for me.”

I, too, believe God’s hand was involved in allowing Moreno to live. I am not a deist, believing that God created the world and set it in motion like a mechanical clock, but doesn’t interfere with the created world. I believe He is still active in human affairs. The Bible compares God to a father who loves his children and wants to do good things for them. If not, why pray for the healing of our loved ones? I even view the birth of a child – although considered an event governed by natural laws – to be a miracle.

And the plan of salvation, a spiritual experience defined in John 3:16 in which a person gains eternal fellowship with God in heaven, is miraculous. We don’t always understand why negative things happens to us, or why He would allow such. But that gets into the will of God, which is another subject.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter