

## Rébecca Rothenbühler



**I had lost all hope of healing ... but today, I share hope: I am healed!**

### **The beginning of the sickness, December 2005**

One morning I woke up early with severe pain in the toes of both feet. I tried to get up, but could barely put my feet on the ground. At the first medical examination, my GP suspected rheumatoid arthritis. It is confirmed, I suffer from RA! In the spring of 2006, the inflammation also attacks my ankles, fingers, and wrists. I am exhausted because of the pain, I no longer know how to hold myself. All actions are painful: showering, combing my hair, holding objects, moving around... The pain is constant! Following a confirmation of the diagnosis, the basic treatment begins by taking a course of medication.

### **During the time of sickness**

My life looks like a tower of wooden blocks! I am experiencing times of remission. A time of respite, a time of calm, a time of reconstruction, a time of life that resembles a normal life. But suddenly, unpredictably, within 24 hours, the tower collapses. I am experiencing a time of crisis, a time of pain, a time of discouragement. It is in these moments that I discover that God is solid. I lean on Jesus. He is my rock.

### **The end of the illness, July 2015 – an unexpected birthday gift**

July 8<sup>th</sup> is my birthday. I'm celebrating my 45th year. In the morning, I read a verse in my Bible:

*Proverbs 16 v 24:*

“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

I also read a birthday card I received. A verse from the Bible was underlined:

*Isaiah 12 v 2:*

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence, he has become my salvation.”

### **An unexpected event was being prepared!**

On That particular week, we participated as a family in an evangelical gathering. We went to the morning conference. I met a lady whom I had seen before at a friend's house. She didn't know anything about me, but through my husband she learned that it was my birthday. She wished me a very happy Birthday. She then explained to me that she had received a picture for me: “She saw me running barefoot through the pastures. You have been through some tough times, but God tells me **it's over**” The meeting begins. The speaker suggests that everyone take a moment to listen to God and then share what they had received. A young woman who I had never met before approaches me. I look at her in surprise. She thinks she has received a word for me: “She sees me running in the pastures. She feels that I have experienced difficult times, that I am still experiencing difficult times but God tells me that **it is over!**”

I burst into tears! My whole being is shaken by what I just heard. Two people tell me exactly the same thing just 15 minutes apart. They don't know that I have RA. I then approach them. We are seated in the same row. I share with them that I have suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for 10 years. I then ask them to pray for my healing! which they willingly do.

**First signs of healing:**

When I walk, no pain, no tiredness. On the contrary, I feel better afterwards! I jump up and down and thank God with emotion for his healing. My ankles are strong. I can run without risk of twisting them. I am healed.

**Thankfulness and wonder**

When I received Jesus into my life at the age of 13, a word was written in my heart: "God is good" It's a certainty that is engraved in my heart. Even in illness, I experienced the goodness of God! He helped me hold on! I took refuge in God, in his Word. Over these past 10 years of illness, I wrote down his promises in a notebook. These words were for me like buoys that God gave me so that I would not sink under the weight of illness. He is good!

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