

INTRODUCTION

What are miracles, and can we see them today? Many ask these questions and yet still wonder why we rarely see them anymore. Some would ask for what type of people miracles happen. Are they perfect or are they for folks with frailties and imperfections?

If you think miracles are dead, then you have not heard the story of the DeFilippo and Chrisagis families. Now from all accounts these were average families. They were hard working, like most families, without much that stood out as extraordinary about them at all except the fact that they seemed to move from miracle to miracle.

Now with the teachings heard in the churches today you might think that this family was one who lived without a problem in the world because of their miraculous experiences. Well, the facts bear out that this belief is a fallacy.

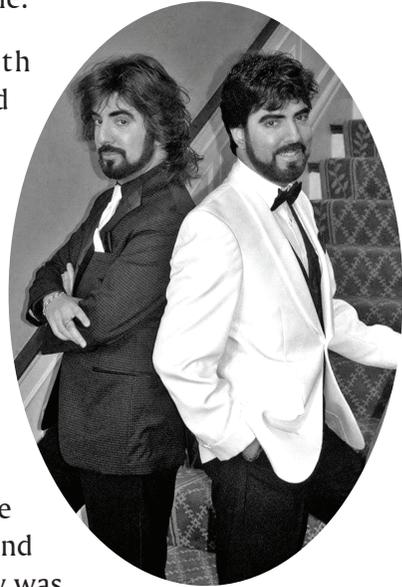
Get in the most comfortable chair you own, grab a snack and prepare to enjoy the stories of a series of modern-day miracles and a family journey that will leave a true legacy for years to come.

Chapter 2

Date Night

Evening quickly fell to close an almost perfect day. Saturday was the day in the week when Nick Clarity took time to relax. As a reporter, his hectic schedule seemed to be ever-changing. He never knew how many hours would be required to get the scoop in order to write his story. He loved his job but needed some down time. One Saturday, all was perfect, that was, until the evening. He spent his Saturday on the golf course. He played the best game of his life. It was so relaxing. He had a date following his golf game.

Nick had an early dinner with his girlfriend, Lacey. He dated the lovely Lacey for almost six months. They were having so much fun and they worked well together. Lately he wondered if this relationship would last for the long haul. She was a wonderful girl, intelligent, ambitious, funny, and oh, so sweet. She was everything he sought in a young woman. There was only one problem and as time went on Nick found it more and more of a glaring problem. Lacey was a Christian and Nick never had any interest in the things of God. He knew Christians and from his experience, they seemed out of touch with reality. He questioned how any thinking person could believe in God. From his perspective, science and history had already proven that the existence of God was a fallacy. He had not come from a family who went to church. His parents believed in allowing their children to pursue spiritual things on their own, as they grew



Pictured above:
The Chrisagis Brothers
“Legends Concert”

up. Nick had made his decision and his heart was far from God. His girlfriend, on the other hand, was a true Christian who knew and loved her Lord and Savior. Nick loved Lacey, but he began to wonder how much more of this faith stuff he could tolerate.

On one Saturday evening she took him to a Christian Concert called the Legends of Christian Music, presented by *The Chrisagis Brothers*. *The Chrisagis Brothers* are a famous Christian Duo who are also identical twin brothers. This yearly concert featured Christian artists who were Grammy and Dove Award Winners, whose ministry changed lives throughout the world for Jesus Christ. At this concert many different singers performed their hits from long ago. Lacey had a wonderful time at this event, but Nick could only take so much. About half way through the concert he decided to take a much-needed break. Nick had to get away, so he excused himself and took a walk outside.

The evening air was crisp and cool. In the back yard of a church, he noticed a cemetery. He walked on the winding road through the large graveyard. As he started his walk, he stayed on the road but eventually walked off the trail to read tombstones. As he wandered through the graveyard, he read the names on the stones. The older stones told him more about the people buried beneath than the newer ones. Lost in his thoughts, he wondered about the people whose names he read. Looking at each of the dates, he imagined what their lives would have been like. On each stone, he saw a date that marked the beginning of their time, then a dash, and finally a second date that told the world when they took their last breath.

Nick saw the beginning and the end, but his curiosity about the dash remained. It was the dash that symbolized the life that was lived in-between the beginning and the end. As he day dreamed, he noticed a tombstone that stood out among the others. This was different. It had only a beginning date, a dash, and an end date, but there were two sets of such dates! The second set of dates had a beginning date, a dash, and finally an end date. Why would there be a second set of dates on the same tombstone?

He searched the whole stone to see if another name appeared on it, but the only name that he read was Anthony DeFilippo. How could this be possible? He thought perhaps the stone maker made a mistake but that seemed doubtful. What family would accept such a mistake? He noticed the name Carmella DeFilippo on this same tombstone. Apparently, they were husband and wife. Her stone had the beginning date, the dash and the end date as one would expect. Nothing out of the ordinary appeared on her marker. While he pondered all of this, he realized that a great deal of time had passed, and he had better get back to the concert to keep Lacey happy. Soon he slipped back into his chair beside Lacey in the concert hall, but he could not get the name Anthony DeFilippo and the miraculous tombstone out of his mind.

Later that night, long after his date ended, Nick found himself unable to sleep. His thoughts were consumed with the unconventional tombstone seen earlier that evening. Every other tombstone was the same, but this one stood out like a sore thumb. He could not get this out of his mind, so instead of fighting sleep and getting frustrated he got up and went online to research Anthony DeFilippo.

A few days following the Legends Concert Lacey and Nick met for lunch during their work day. After some small talk, he asked her some questions about her faith and the after-life.

Nick began, "Lacey, can I ask you something?"

"Sure", Lacey responded. "Do you remember the night we went to the Legends Concert and I left for a while because I needed some air?", he asked. She responded, "Yes, I remember."

"Well, while I was outside, I walked through a cemetery that was behind a church where I saw something strange," Nick said.

"Really", Lacey answered with concern. She questioned further, "Did something happen up there?" "No nothing like that, I just noticed something and have been wondering about it," he responded.

“What?”, she asked. “I was reading the dates on the tombstones when I decided to walk off the path. I noticed one that did not make any sense. Each tombstone had a name and under the name appeared a beginning date, a dash and an end date. There is a stone in that cemetery with two sets of dates,” he explained. Lacey listened to his story intently.

She then responded, “All of them have a birth and a death date. Unless the person shares a stone with a spouse and they have not yet died.”

Nick responded, “Yes there were two names on the stone but only one name had the two sets of dates under it.”

Then Nick asked, “I was wondering, I know that Christians sometimes keep track of the date that marks the day they were born again. Could that be what the second set of dates refers to on the tombstone?”

She responded, “I really don’t think so. When Christians give a date for their spiritual birth that marks their new life in Christ. There would be no death date to go with that.” Nick thoughtfully concluded, “It really doesn’t make any sense.”

Pictured to the right: Anthony and Carmella DeFilippo’s Wedding
September 18, 1937. They truly were a perfect couple
in every way. What a legacy of love they gave us.

About the Co-Authors



Brian and Shawn Chrisagis are identical twins who were never to be born. Their life changing testimony and ministry of 35 years travels the world.

They have appeared on every Christian Network and had their own TV series, radio shows, and TV specials.

The brothers are best known as recording artists who have been nominated for many awards and won as the best duo in Christian Music by the *Extraordinary People Awards*. They have created their own events such as *Legends in Christian Music*, *All That Glitters Conferences*, and *Hollywood Legends* events.

The Chrisagis Brothers are ordained ministers, portrait and cartoon artists, models and actors.

Visit www.chrisagisbrothersministries.org to learn more.

Pictured:
The Chrisagis Brothers
(Brian above, Shawn at
right). Both publicity
photos were for the
Saved by the Brothers
TV reality series that
was done by A&E.

