**200 Years Ago: An experimental surgery that saved the life of Joseph Smith blesses hundreds of thousands today.**

On August 3, the Joseph Smith Sr. Family Association will celebrate the 1st miracle of the restoration with Joseph’s Miracle Run; a 5K run at *This is the Place Heritage Park* in Salt Lake City. The public is invited to run or donate. Proceeds will fund a scholarship in Joseph’s name to Dartmouth Medical School, founded by Dr. Nathan Smith. For more info visit:

[www.JosephsMiracleRun.com](http://www.JosephsMiracleRun.com)

In just a few weeks, young Brandy Harper will be able to run a 5K commemorating the surgery 200 years ago that saved Joseph Smith’s leg from the same disease that Brandy suffered with. Brandy knows too well the excruciating pain of osteomyelitis which crushes bones from the inside out. And the same surgery that saved Joseph’s leg saved his too.

Up until he was two years old, Brandy Harper was known for his happy disposition. Even the most cantankerous hearts were charmed by his spontaneous giggles, happy smiles and gregarious nature. He was a gift straight from heaven and the whole family doted on him, as well they should. Then, without warning, those light filled smiles gave way to extended bouts of tears. His parents noticed a slight limp when he walked but it was the piercing screams that signaled something was seriously wrong. Day or night, no one was getting any rest, not the siblings, not the parents, not grandma who had come to help out. Brandy’s crying jags just got longer and more intense.

Repeated visits to the doctor produced the same diagnosis: Brandy was in perfect health! X-rays showed nothing wrong and the blood work was normal. More tests were ordered. The x-ray technician saw no reason to pamper the boy—after all there wasn’t anything wrong with him. She roughly but efficiently placed his leg in the positions that would ensure clear x-rays, giving little heed to his comfort. Each movement was accompanied by renewed and vigorous screams. “Enough is enough,” Grandma spoke up, “You hurt that little boy one more time and I’m going to hurt you!” One thing was certain—Brandy was in pain, a lot of pain. And nobody could figure out why.

The dreaded possibility of “*Bone Cancer*” was bandied about as a potential diagnosis for the intense never ending pain. But Brandy’s doctor was a saintly man who believed in prayer. If medicine’s brightest minds could not muster up a solution, surely God could. “I don’t have any evidence to prove it,” he said, “but I believe Brandy has osteomyelitis and I’d like you to see a specialist.” He went on to explain that this was the same kind of infection that almost took the life and leg of Joseph Smith. Suddenly the miraculous nature of Joseph’s surgery became intimate and real. With the help of a courageous and skillful country doctor Joseph’s surgery was a resounding success. With the knowledge passed down by that same country doctor, Brandy’s surgery would be a success too.

The specialist studied Brandy’s history, the clear x-rays and the perfect blood work. He then corroborated the diagnosis, not quite knowing why he felt it to be so. “When you have a boil,” he explained, “it is painful, but as the infection increases the skin expands to accommodate the increasing pressure. When you have an infection inside your bone there is no give…no place to expand to. Consequently the pressure continues to build with no release and the pain can be excruciating.”

In 1813 a typhoid epidemic claimed the lives of thousands. In many children like 7-year-old Joseph, the disease settled in the bones causing osteomyelitis and unbearable pain. In Joseph’s day, the only option was amputation, and if the child survived, there was no hope for an independent life. In desperation, the Smith family reached out to Dr. Nathan Smith, a brilliant surgeon who pioneered an experimental surgery to expose the bone and allow it to heal gradually. The surgery worked, and perhaps saved Joseph’s life. That same treatment also led to Brandy’s successful surgery, and the resulting knowledge of osteomyelitis saves hundreds of thousands today.

Brandy plans to honor Dr. Nathan Smith by running in the Joseph's Miracle Run 5K to help raise funds for a medical scholarship to a deserving student attending Dartmouth Medical school which Dr. Smith founded. We invite you to run with Brandy if you can—or just donate if you can’t—to make this dream come true.

Joseph’s Miracle Run is August 3rd 2013 at *This is the Place Heritage Park*  in Salt Lake City, Utah . For details on the run, registration or donations, visit:

[**www.josephsmiraclerun.com**](http://www.josephsmiraclerun.com)