



Karen after the accident, ministering at a small, church leader; weekend retreat.

She's Back!

*(TV Commercial)

VOICE OVER: And now we break for another commercial.

(TV Commercial)

ANCHOR MAN: We interrupt our regularly scheduled commercial to bring you the latest in breaking news. And we mean that literally.



The stairs: slippery when wet!

On July 29, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. Karen Caldwell slipped on wet tile steps on her way down the stairs. You know, the kind of stairs that are tilted and hard and slick and go almost straight down and the room around them echoes because it's made out of concrete and there's nothing on the walls... well, I think you get the picture. Her feet went out from under her and she fell down the three remaining ceramic steps.

The family had just rented the house in Tampico, Mexico. They had moved from Morelia, Mexico. Karen's husband, David Caldwell, is a coordinator and developer of youth camps in Tampico.

CALEB: Uh, excuse me, Caleb Caldwell here.

ANCHOR MAN: Well, what of it? Can't you see I'm in the middle of a newscast?

CALEB: Oh, sorry about that. But I thought it would be interesting to note that the steps were wet due to water spilled from a bucket that had been taken down the stairs a couple minutes before.

ANCHOR MAN: Oh, well, thank you for that interesting tidbit. (Clears throat) Hmmm, anyway...

CALEB: You're welcome.

ANCHOR MAN: Yes, yes... Well, back to the news.

She hit her back hard and had to be carried into the master bedroom. She experienced pain and discomfort when she moved and was not able to roll over or adjust her position without acute pain. David Caldwell, the husband, acted heroically, quickly contacting the pastor of Verbo Tampico (their local church), to alert him to the situation and have him pray for Karen. David then called Sonja Milam, Karen's sister in Garland TX, and a former physical therapist, to find out the best course of action to take with Karen's back. Cold compresses were applied and steps were taken to relieve the pain.

(Enter Kari Caldwell from set left)

KARI: (Proudly) I was the one who helped Dad put the compresses on. I gave Mom the shots too.

ANCHOR MAN: (Confused) What shots?

KARI: The ones you're about to tell about, of course.

ANCHOR MAN: Oh, those. Who are you anyway?

KARI: I'm Kari. Who are you?

ANCHOR MAN: (Proudly) I'm the anchorman.

KARI: (Dryly) I could tell that by your hair. No, I meant what's your name?

ANCHOR MAN: (Even more proudly) Young lady, I am a newsman, one of an elite group; we don't have personal identities!

KARI: Oh, well, excuse me! Aren't you supposed to be telling all these people what happened?
(Exits)

ANCHOR MAN: (Looks confused) Right. Anyway, the pastor contacted Dr. Jorge Melibran, a bone surgeon and co-pastor of Agua Viva, (a large evangelical church in the city) to make a house call and examine Karen's back for breaks. After a thorough check-over, the doctor let the anxious family know that his personal opinion was that there were no breaks. He prescribed painkillers to kill the pain (logically enough) and gave her two injections before leaving. The injections continued for three days.

(Music starts up) Stay tuned for the rest of the story, right after this.

(TV Commercial)



Kari Caldwell

(Music)

ANCHOR MAN: And we're back...

NEWS DIRECTOR: Excuse me, but we discovered a mistake in our last newscast.

ANCHOR MAN: (Incredulous) A mistake? That's impossible! I don't make mistakes; it's in my contract!

NEWS DIRECTOR: Well then, maybe we should change your contract.

ANCHOR MAN: (Indignant) Well, maybe you should. But what was the mistake?

NEWS DIRECTOR: You said, and I quote, "The injections continued for three days," unquote. In fact they continued for one and one half weeks.

ANCHOR MAN: Ok, I'm very sorry, but can we get back to the news now?

NEWS DIRECTOR: Sure, go right ahead.

ANCHOR MAN: Thank you. The injections continued for *one and a half* weeks.

During that time the children cooked their own meals and cleaned up after themselves.

They washed the clothes and swept the floors, home schooled themselves, fed the dogs, took out the garbage, while David shopped...and shopped...and shopped. (Thoughtfully) You know, it takes a lot of provender to feed six kids.

(Back-stage whisper): Could you hurry it up a bit? We're short on time.

ANCHOR MAN: Oh, yeah, sure.

Karen was transported to a hospital for x-rays. God had provided an x-ray technician from the Caldwell's church who helped...

(Enter Religiously Incorrect, Not Really Very Tolerant Person from set right)

RELIGIOUSLY INCORRECT, NOT REALLY VERY TOLERANT PERSON: (Interrupting) Hey, look. You can't force me to listen to you talk about God. That...(He in turn is interrupted)

ANCHOR MAN: Ahhh! Stop interrupting me! Can't you let me finish this broadcast in peace?

(Silence)

OK, (Talking very fast now) the x-rays showed that there were no breaks but Karen had to lay on her face for two weeks and was not to move. She continued to be in pain for almost a month. During that time she did a lot of praying. God confirmed to her that He had work for her in Tampico. Gradually she improved and finally she was all better and everybody was happy and I'm your anchorman, thank you and goodnight.

(Off set thump as he faints)

(Music)

VOICE: We now return you to our regularly scheduled problem. I mean program. I mean commercial.

(TV Commercial)

*All commercials, though meeting current industry standards, are excised due to inappropriate content.

Karen Caldwell is a missionary with her husband, David, in Tampico, Mexico. The Caldwell family is developing Christian youth camps in Mexico. "She's Back!" was written by Caleb Caldwell, 15, with editing assistance by the RYCCA proofing team. Caleb enjoys painting and drawing. He is currently working on a children's book of 50 poems that he will illustrate. He hopes to have a draft ready by Christmas for Micah, 10, and Rosie, 7. Caleb can be reached at caleb@rycca.org.mx



Caleb Caldwell