

Michael—7 Years Old

Closer to the Light—Melvin Morse, MD

A pediatric anesthesiologist told me that he witnessed a near-death experience that changed his entire approach to medicine. While chief resident at a children's hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, this doctor was called upon to resuscitate a seven-year-old boy who'd had a near-fatal reaction to intensive chemotherapy for leukemia.

When he shocked the boy with cardioversion paddles to restart his heart, the boy's eyes sprung open and flashed with anger.

Several weeks later, he was called by the boy as he passed his room, "Doctor, where is Jesus?"

The doctor didn't know what to say. "He's everywhere," he finally said.

"That's not what I mean," said the boy. "What did you do to make Jesus go away? Jesus and I were above you watching you put a tube into my throat. Then you shocked me with that machine, and you made Jesus go away. Why did you do that? I'm mad at you for making him go away."

"We were trying to help you," said the doctor.

"I know that," said the boy. "But I was all right with Jesus, and I didn't want to come back. Jesus was taking care of me."