

Near Death Experiencer Roland Dell

I Believe in Heaven: Real Stories
from the Bible, History and Today
By Cecil Murphey, Twila Belk

A Christian Soldier's Near-death Experience

Roland Dell (US Army, retired), on his twentieth year in the military, returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on February 6, 2005. Around that time, Dell was ordained as a Christian minister and prayed to be effective for God.

He participated in battle-group training in water survival, something he had done for 20 years. After he finished, he felt he had a terrible case of heartburn and asked for permission to lie down.

Dell lay down and apparently blacked out from heart failure. Within minutes paramedics arrived. On his right side, he felt a "being lying shoulder to shoulder with me."

The paramedics resuscitated him. On his way to the hospital, the ambulance encountered traffic. Just then, Dell was able to look down the highway and see everything as the vehicle raced along with headlights on and strobes flashing.

Dell felt good and said it was the best feeling he had ever experienced. His mind was clear. His next memory was being stabilized for an airlift to Washington Hospital Center, where he awakened in the intensive care unit. His lungs had filled with fluid, and he wasn't expected to survive the night. But he did.

Two days later, when Dell told his family about the ambulance trip and being able to see everything, his mother asked how that was possible in his condition. Dell realized he had been strapped down, facing the front of the ambulance, and there were no windows.

During his second week in the hospital, Dell experienced another heart attack. A nurse said to him, "Mr. Dell, the enemy knows who you are, but it will not stop what the Lord has planned for you."

Three weeks later, Dell was able to return to church. He shocked people because the pastor had told the congregation that Dell wasn't expected to live. The sermon that Sunday was the Good Shepherd lying down with the lambs. Dell thought about the being who had lain down next to him after his initial heart attack. He realized that had been his own body.¹²

Dell said, "It is because many times on this side of my existence, I have continually known Him. Death is only a continuation of the spiritual life that I already possess."

** That "being next to me" was Jesus Christ;
whom I personally know, and follow.
Roland T. Dell, SSG U.S. Army Ret.*