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Trenton McKinley was riding in a trailer pulled by a go-cart his friend was driving when they turned a corner too fast, and the 13-year-old boy went flying. The trailer landed on his head, and the accident left him severely injured. He had seven skull fractures, at one point even flatlining for 15 minutes before settling back into his coma. His doctors told his parents that he was unlikely to survive. And if he did, he would likely have severe brain damage, rendering him unable to walk or talk.

His parents made the agonizing decision to pull him from life support and donate his organs. Soon after, against all odds, McKinley began to show signs of recovery and eventually regained consciousness. His family considered his recovery a miracle and, two months later, McKinley continues to defy the odds as he makes more progress, talking and walking and even cracking jokes.

"They told me I'd be a vegetable," the Mobile, Alabama teen said in an interview with NBC's "Today." "I don't really seem like a vegetable, do I?"

In the wake of his ordeal, McKinley has had to deal with a number of challenges, including a 50-pound weight loss, nerve pain and daily seizures. He has endured three brain surgeries, and likely has a long

of more surgeries and treatments ahead of him. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to help pay for medical expenses. During the time he was unconscious, McKinley believes he was in heaven.

“I was in an open field walking straight,” he told WALA. “There’s no other explanation but God. There’s no other way. Even doctors said it.”

On April 29, McKinley’s mother, Jennifer Reindl, shared some photos, along with an update on her son’s recovery on Facebook:

“Well, our Trenton is awake and in good spirits today,” she wrote. “We are beyond thankful to God for his healing and continuing to heal Trent. Thanks so much to each and every one of y’all for your prayer and support. We send our love from Birmingham.”

What an amazing story! Here’s wishing McKinley all the best in his continued recovery!

This story originally appeared on Simplemost. Checkout Simplemost for other great tips and ideas to get the most out of life.

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