



MY STORY FOR HIS GLORY

I was born in October of 1968 in Knox, Indiana. I was re-born or “born again” in August 1980. This is when my true life story begins.

My re-birth was the result of my decision to acknowledge that I was not good enough for heaven and that God had made a way for me if I was only willing to accept His free gift. So, I did! I made this life changing decision while at church camp, in the middle of nowhere, in Northern Indiana. I had heard for years that I needed to be “saved” from my sins and that God loved me. I heard many times that God was my heavenly father and wanted me to be with him in heaven forever. My biological father had been an irresponsible drunk that abused my mom and then divorced her when I was only a year old. He left me, my young mother, and my two older brothers to struggle through life because of his own selfishness. So, the idea of a “loving” father did not seem very real to me! That, along with the fact that I was too busy “living” life and taking all that came my way as a young man, that I did not have time to stop and evaluate what comes next when we die.

However, on a hot and muggy Friday night, the final day of camp, after a long week of fun and conviction, God used the words of the speaker to speak both deep conviction and wonderful hope into my soul. Later that evening, with a camp counselor, I chose to confess my sinfulness to God and I asked him to save me from my sin and all its consequences and to give me the gift of a new life in Christ. That is, I became a “born again” Christian – a new follower of Christ!

Since that night in 1980 I have lived with the assurance that I was in the safety of Christ’s hand. I began to understand that because of the love and gratitude I had toward my Savior for what he had done for me, that my life’s journey should be focused on living for Him. From this point forward I have had many steps, both forward and backwards, in my Christian walk.

My teen years were mainly focused on athletics and surviving school. Since I applied myself to sports, I was fortunate enough to be above average, but far from exceptional. However, since I failed to apply myself to the classroom, I was certainly not an academic success. Instead, I spent a significant portion of my time convincing people that I was a good student all the while failing miserably! God began to convict me about my mediocrity and the wasting of the gifts He blessed me with. In spite of my poor effort, I was able to barely make it into college via academic probation and a football scholarship. It was during this crucial crossroad in my life that God gave me my life’s verse in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” From this point forward, God began to mold and teach me through various highs and lows of life:

✠ The tragic death of several close friends caused me to avoid the “party” lifestyle so common in the teen years. Although, at the time, I was too spiritually immature to recognize God’s guiding hand of protection, this became evident to me later in life.

✠ I played football in Europe during the summer of 1988, where I learned what it meant to be a sold out man after God’s own heart. I met men that focused on Christ over all else in their lives while being exceptional players in their sport. I began to see what a father God could be to me and that I could trust Him to never leave me or forsake me as my biological father had.

✠ I sustained a career ending injury in 1989 that caused me to stop living in the moment and to begin looking for God’s plan in my life. I became active in FCA and started observing others who were committed and sold out to the cause of Christ. I was inspired and encouraged to be bold in my faith and to share it with others.

✠ My first job out of college was at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri in 1991. This was my first introduction to an incredibly well run organization by a committed Christian family. As a Personnel Assistant, I had the privilege of sitting under the leadership of our Personnel Director who taught me marketplace ministry.

✠ God then led me to work in K.C. for the Royals and the Chiefs. This was an entirely secular environment, but I learned to be strong when those around me were antagonistic toward my Savior. I served in a local church with youth who counted on me to teach and lead them in the ways of God each week.

✠ In 1992, I got engaged and moved to Indianapolis to begin my new career in a start-up venture called The Personnel Department. The founder was a young entrepreneur that wanted to mentor someone to take over his company. This godly man saw potential in me that I never saw. He also knew how to pull it out of me in ways that surprised and encouraged me at the same time. He was a great coach!

✠ In 1993, I married my college sweetheart. God showed me grace in providing an exceptional completer! My wife, Karen, has challenged me to grow deeper in my faith and to see the world around me as my “mission field”.

✠ My first daughter, Gabrielle, was born in 1995. I experienced God’s amazing hand of creation. I am so unworthy of being a father, but with a committed heart and God’s strength, I know I can be used to help raise and point our four girls toward Christ.

✠ A milestone in my Christian walk was in the summer of 1994. After spending much of my time either at work, sitting in front of the television, or reading the newspaper, God spoke to my heart about becoming serious about living for Him. I needed to redeem the time as we learn in Ephesians 5:16 (“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”). It was at this time that I cancelled my newspaper and put my TV in the closet. These are not necessarily “bad” things to participate in, but they became “idols” to me and kept me from being effective for Christ.

✠ After many years of success at work, pride began to creep into my life. I began to think and act as though I knew better how to run the organization than our owner. I saw a company that had become so dependent upon me that it could not possibly run without me. However, God knew my heart and the commitments I had made to live for Him, so He removed me from my position in 1999. After being fired, God humbled me and began teaching me things about my pride that I never knew existed. This was the greatest time of spiritual growth in my life and I would not have changed it if I could!

✠ God continued to expand our family with three more girls: Kylee (1998), Annika (2000), and Tessa (2002).

✠ After considering full-time Christian service at a Bible College, God redirected me to start Servant HR (SHR) in 2003. SHR is the ministry that God had called me in to, to help live out my faith in the marketplace. We have seen some amazing opportunities to reflect Christ in and through our work.

God had truly been good to me through the years, even in the midst of many trials. His love is never ending, His word is forever true, and sufficient for all my needs.

My relationship with Christ has been a blessing, but it has not been exclusive. Christ died for my sins to save me from an eternity in hell, just like He did for the rest of humanity, including you. Yes, Christ’s forgiving grace is not exclusive to a select group – it’s free for all! God tells us in His word that, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13). That “whosoever” includes you and me! No matter how many bad things in life we have done, God wants to give us salvation. We also see in God’s word, the Bible, that there is nothing we can do to earn this free gift – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works lest any man shall boast.” (Eph 2:8, 9).

Let me encourage you today to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. For further information please visit www.servanthr.com/truth.html. I would be glad to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with you at any time.

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