

Engaging  
Stories  
*of God's Grace*



Eternal Truth



New Heart



God's Grace



Authentic Living



Growing Relationships



Everyone Equipped

I encourage you to read Psalm 40 before you read this edition of Engaging Stories. One of the key functions of a transformed heart is telling His story. Here is what the author says:

I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;

I do not seal my lips, LORD, as you know.  
I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;

I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.

I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.

Hear about the faithfulness of God throughout all these stories. They come from people like you. And God desires to work the same in your life.

Enjoy, *Pastor Pat*

This year Operation Christmas Child achieved new heights. But not only were our Gospel opportunities to children greatly increased by our church and the area, many behind the scenes blessings took place. A box-packing party engaging children from the Inner City and our own kids, a woman volunteering to pack boxes spotted holding hands with others and later learning she had asked Christ to be her personal Savior, a 17-year-old made up 50 boxes because she was so touched by the children, a member held box-packing parties in her home for her neighbors who do not attend a church...the result was 200 boxes! And a most touching event, seeing the children being able to proudly carry their box to be dedicated by another child's prayer. What a great way to teach our children to give.

Kids and adults of all ages enjoyed food to eat and food for the spirit all week. The eagerness, joy and team efforts of many new and yearly "regular" volunteers is nothing shy of amazing. What a wonderful way to serve, while allowing kids all over the world to get the greatest gift of all: knowing Jesus, an Eternal Gift.

*Laine Anastasia*

## "HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS" PROJECT

Jacob and Matthew wanted me to update you all on their progress in collecting bottles and cans for their Hope for Christmas project. They were able to raise over \$3000, which was used to purchase gifts for 26 children at School 54 in Buffalo. We had a wrapping party at our house, and with the help of the Rifenburg and Scherer families from our church, we were able to pack 26 duffle bags to the brim with gifts for each child. They were delivered to the children on December 18!

Jacob and Matthew wanted to thank you all for encouraging and supporting them with your help. This would not have been as much of a success without the response of our church family. The love and effort you have all put into helping our boys (and the families in Buffalo) means a lot to our family.

The Slowinski Family



I'm Suqiang Chen, and I come from China. I was so lucky to have known something about God from my mother when I was a child because about 20 years ago, the gospel was not as popular as it is today in the mainland of China. Though I went to church with my mother regularly, I couldn't understand very well about the gospel since I was just a child at that time, I just knew God likes honest children so I shouldn't tell a lie or anything like that. When I went to high school, the heavy pressure from studying, plus my psychological rebellious period resulted in me being away from God for several years.

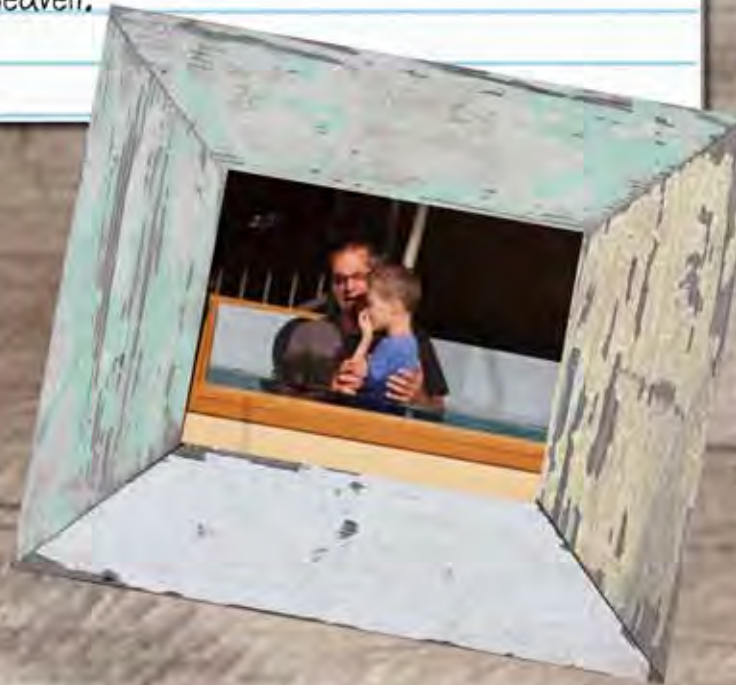
However, thank God, it was at this university where I began to know God again, and deeply. In front of the stress and burden from both study and life, I was becoming anxious and confused about my future. I believe that all these were just in order to let me realize that I can't do anything if I just count on myself without God. So I kept going to church until my graduation. And thank God, finally, I came to America for further study. As it is written: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." And, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." God is merciful and loving. He won't break the bruised reed, and He wants every lost kid to go back to his home. Thank God for His grace.





My Name is Julia Matteson and I am 7 years old. I've been getting to know Jesus my whole entire life. Jesus loves us and I know that because I know that He died on the cross for us so our sins could be forgiven. He loves us even when we are bad. I got to find Jesus by reading the Bible with my family. I also know Him by going to church to worship, learn Bible stories, and talk to my small group. I'm being baptized to show that Jesus is in my heart. He helps me feel better when I am sad. He is with us when we are lonely. He forgives our sins when we pray. He takes care of the things we need. He takes care of us when we are sick. He created everything for us. I'm going to remember when I got baptized for my whole life so through my life I definitely will remember that God is in my heart.

My name is Jacob Matteson and I am 8 years old. I've always been a happy little kid who knew about God, but since I was in Kindergarten I have gotten to know God really well because the small groups in Kids Church do such a good job. I've learned that He was born on earth at Christmas time so he could teach people and be the ruler of the world. He died on the cross for our sins. I get to know Him even better when I pray and spend time with Him. When I was really sick and I couldn't breathe, I had to go through tons of surgeries and God helped me get better. He always takes care of me in my life. I am going to be a Christian forever and then go to heaven.



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# WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

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Do you have a story you would  
like to share?  
Email [stories@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:stories@easternhillschurch.org)

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