

Engaging Stories *of God's Grace*

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Our mission is to engage every person to become a passionate follower of Jesus Christ. People engage with what they see, hear and feel. Simply telling people about Jesus without showing them what it looks like to be a passionate follower of Jesus is incomplete.

These engaging stories are meant to help give that full picture. Christ is alive and walks the streets in us, lives in our homes in us, and shows love to others through us. These are His stories.

To Him be the glory for what He is doing in and through His people.

Blessings, *Pastor Pat*



I volunteer each year at the Erie County Fair. I get free parking, free admission and a \$5 food voucher for each day I volunteer. As an exhibitor, I also get five tickets for free admission to the fair. I used four tickets for friends and had one left over. On my last day of working at the fair, I put the extra ticket in my pocket. I was at the fair early that day, to check in and get my food voucher. Then I realized I forgot to pick up a daily program, so I walked back to the gate. Just outside the gate was a ticket booth. I saw an older woman with a young boy about 10 (kids under 12 get in free). As they approached the ticket booth, I called out to her, offered her my free ticket, and said, "May God bless you." She went to a bench and broke down and cried. She told me she had just heard a parking attendant yelling to another person with a cane, that people who can't walk should NOT come to the fair! She was losing faith in people and said my act of kindness negated that comment and she felt better. I said she should not lose faith in Jesus and I wished her and her grandson a blessed day. I went to "work" at Little Hands on the Farm, a new and permanent exhibit. As we were putting on our aprons, another volunteer was relating the exact same story about the parking lot attendant yelling. I chimed in that I was talking to another woman who overheard that comment. She said, "I know... that's my sister!" She went on to say, "Abby, you cannot imagine how incredible that was when you gave her a free ticket. She has been widowed for 22 years and has only a part time job at Rite Aid. She struggles financially day to day." Her sister tried to get her in free as a relative of a volunteer but no luck and she could barely afford the admission. As she finished putting on her apron, I noticed she picked up her cane. This volunteer was the subject of the parking attendant's wrath. It never ceases to amaze me how God always leads me to the right person. Dr. Joey Jennings said in his recent sermon, "People will experience Jesus' Kingdom by simple acts of love" and referenced Matthew 5:14. You are the light of the world...

Abby Preston



I grew up going to church and being taught about God. I always knew there was a Creator. I'm blessed to have been raised by parents who are believers. Almost every summer throughout my youth they sent me to a Christian camp called Circle C. It was there that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. However, I did not fully commit my life to being a follower of Christ until much later. I grew older and became stuck in sinful habits and patterns that were leading to death. I was selfish, did not care for others and most of the time felt like a failure regardless of any worldly success that I gained. I became an addict with no hope of sobriety, was in destructive relationships and even desired to take my own life at points.

When I was twenty years old, I was invited to a Kingdom Bound concert by my ex-boyfriend, Alan who had been radically saved and had literally become a new person. Between concerts the speaker/host spoke about surrendering your life fully to Christ. He made it sound so easy! It became clear to me that I did not need to earn anything. I only needed to accept the free gift that God was trying to give me. It was then that I prayed and rededicated myself to the Lord and was set free from my sinful life. Glory to God!

Since I have become a true follower of Jesus, I have been released of chains humans are unable to break. I have a hope in a future not here on earth, but with my heavenly Father. I now have love for others that does not come naturally to me. God has blessed me abundantly in more ways than I can count and continues to do so. That ex-boyfriend is now my husband and we have two beautiful children and are expecting our third. God is so good!

Sara Davis

I HAVE BECOME

(By Kathy Madrid)

I woke up on a soft green leaf,
As I stretched and wiggled my feet
Then I walked to the edge and started to eat,
And realized the leaf was so sweet
I ate and ate until I got my fill,
Then felt like I might want to sleep

So I counted my toes because I had so many,
Instead of the usual sheep

Then I tossed and turned and rolled around and round,

Until I was covered in a silky cocoon

My silky blanket blocked out the sound,

So I knew I'd fall asleep soon

I awoke suddenly and took a big yawn,

I slept for days it seems

I stood and I stretched what I thought were my arms,

And discovered that they looked like wings

Then I flapped and flapped and up I went,

Until I could see all around

So I flew to a window, and what I discovered,

Had me quite astound

It was like someone opened a door or turned a key,

To finally set me free

When I looked in the window at my reflection,

And saw a brand new me

I have become

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here." 2 Corinthians 5:17

(Kathy Madrid, a long-time attender of EHWC,

passed away on May 7, 2015)