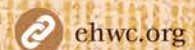


Engaging
STORIES

of God's Grace

SPRING 2017 EDITION

Eastern Hills Church
8445 Greiner Road
Williamsville, NY 14221



Over the past couple months we focused on the Gospel and how it transforms people. For four weeks we did a series entitled "Our Story", where we heard from four different people and saw four unique ways the same Gospel touched them.

Palm Sunday and Easter we discussed how all History is His Story. Our faith is anchored in the reality of the past, but demonstrated in the reality of the present.

Enclosed you will find more evidence of His Story. May He be glorified and you blessed as you read them.

Blessings,
Pastor Pat



HOPE IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF

When death occurs in our life, we don't know how to process it, let alone grieve. My only sibling and sister, Phyllis died tragically last July and I was at a loss how to begin to start to heal. God is amazing as He brings gifted people and His Word to us for guidance. I decided to attend GriefShare in January, never knowing what to expect. Our facilitator was so kind, patient and loving to all of us and made us feel welcome. Her love for Jesus radiates on her face. We had a class filled with hurting, caring people who needed God's help and wisdom for this progress to start.

During the Christmas season before the class began, I was shopping at the mall at one of the department stores and started talking to a lady in line. She had also lost her husband in a similar way just three weeks before. We hugged and said goodbye and never thought we would ever meet again. When I walked into the GriefShare class, she decided to drive from Marilla to take the class also. Only our God could have orchestrated all of this. The GriefShare videos are extensive and answer many of our questions. They also give many scenarios and healing techniques that can take place with God's help.

I used to wake up each morning with an overwhelming feeling of anxiety and sadness. Our lives will never be the same, but God has proven to be my Comfort and Strength. He promises to be close to the broken-hearted. His love for us never fails. He is our true Father and friend and knows the deepest hurt. I'm grateful that our church offers this class and I recommend this to those who have lost a loved one recently or even long ago. Take the time to let the scars begin to fade.

Praise God for His love for us in the midst of our deepest hurts and suffering.

Marie Romano

THAT STILL SMALL VOICE

For those of you who have ever had that 'still small voice' speak to you and you hesitated or did not follow through, I have a story for you of God's unmistakable orchestrations!

One day last June I was looking out my window and there was a man parked off the road at the end of my property and he was leaning up against the back of his vehicle talking on the phone. I proceeded to do something and returned to the window only to see that he was still there. It was then that this 'still small voice' in my spirit rather emphatically urged me to go to him. I'm thinking "really"!?!? So I grabbed my phone and prayerfully went down my driveway to the road. The man asked me if I could help him, so I asked what he needed. He said he was having a stroke and wanted me to talk to his wife on the phone. Come to find out he didn't know where he was and without this information his wife couldn't get help to him. She had someone with her call 911 and I continued to talk to her until the ambulance came.

That evening the family came to get the car and I asked how he was doing. His friend told me I was his guardian angel because by the time he arrived at the hospital he was in bad shape.

I forgot to get the man's name, but for months I prayed for him and his family knowing that God knew who they were and I kept wondering how he made out.

Then one night in October, my doorbell rang and it was the friend who had come for the car last June and he said the man's wife wanted to meet me. They came in and she explained how he called to tell her he was having a stroke (he had two previous ones) and she convinced him to pull off the road. I told her that it was divine intervention that he pulled in front of my house as most of the people on my street work and I was probably the only person home. Come to find out her husband is a Bishop in Buffalo and she invited me to a surprise birthday party for him at their church and wanted me to share what happened that day in June. Then in November they were celebrating the Bishop's 17 years with the church and wanted me to share again at their church service. She said that I had a whole new family now and she got up and hugged me and the three of us held hands and prayed before they left. We indeed serve an amazing God!

I attended both of the events, not knowing what to expect and was greeted with such love and appreciation. It was truly one of the most memorable times in my life all because I followed the leading of the Spirit and stepped out of my comfort zone.

So, I encourage you to follow through when the Spirit nudges you to do something. If you don't not only will the other person not receive the intended blessing, but you have no idea what you will miss out on! God has a purpose for the 'still small voice' and He wants to use you for His glory!

Diane Doolittle