

MY BUMPY ROAD TO SALVATION

My wife and I grew up in different types of families. I would say hers was a semi religious, whereas mine was not religious at all. Thus, after we were married, I did not push in anyway, going to church. After five years and two children into our marriage we moved from California to Illinois for my new job.

I believe it was at this point the Lord began to take an interest in our family and look after us. It started when I rented a U-haul trailer to move our skimping positions. I was living and working at a Job Corps Center in the mountains of the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California. This is when I gave the Lord the opportunity to look after us. As I was driving down the mountain with a heavy load behind my car, I was forced to use my brakes more than usual. About halfway down, I lost my brakes and almost went off the road and down the side of the mountain with our two young girls, ages two years and seven days old.

I jackknifed the car and trailer over the side of the road. Maybe only inches but no more than a few feet from going down the side of the mountain to certain death. It took AAA two wrecking trucks to pull the car and trailer back on the road. With their help we made it down and to my parents' ranch where I took my wife's advice and called a mover to take what we had in the trailer to Chanute Air Force Base, where I was to become their new Youth Director. The rest of the trip was uneventful.

After living in Rantoul, Illinois for a couple of months my wife, Eileen, started suggesting that we should find a church for our family. I was not that keen on the idea but wanting to please her I agreed. I gave her the task of finding a church for us. Which she did.

Now, this is where the Lord took over. She found a church and that Sunday she dressed the children, and I went to the garage to get the car out to go to church. However, this was not the church the Lord wanted us to go to because I could not get the car started. When I went back into the house to tell her, she gave me “that” look of that is a flimsy excuse to get out of going to church. That week she had meet someone and decided on another church for us. So, the next Sunday, she got us all ready and it had snowed all night and backing the car out of the garage, I got stuck and couldn’t move the car. I knew what she would think if I went back into the house and told her that we couldn’t go because the car was stuck in the snow.

This is where the Lord decided to step in, because this was the church he wanted us to attend. Across the street a neighbor had a snow blower and was cleaning his driveway. I asked if he could help me, he said yes and used his snow blower to clean my driveway so that I could get my car out and that was the church we went to and both of us were Saved there.

My wife, a few months before me. I still remember sitting in the pew as the pastor was giving the invitation to come forward. It was as if a load lifted from my shoulders, and I stood up and went forward. That is where and when I accepted Christ as my savior.

This may not be what you were looking for; but it is the way I saw how the Lord got me to the place where he wanted me. We attended that church until, we moved to Japan,

again for my job, and attended Calvery Baptist Church, a missionary church. Oddly enough, the interim pastor that the Missionary Board sent to pastor our church when our regular pastor went on home leave was retired from a church In Ashville, North Carolina, his name is Nane Starns.

Our entire family attended every Sunday, we had a church softball team and played in the base intramural softball league where we won the base championship. I have always wondered if the Lord had a hand in that. Maybe not, that really isn't his thing.

Here in Goldsboro, we were members of Madison Avenue Baptist Church until the Lord led us to Freedom Baptist Church. Where I organized another softball team. That is when I realized something...After our first practice, I realized that I really am 85 years old.

Anyway, that is my story, and I am sticking to it.