

April testimonies

- Monica said she had a cyst on her toe for 20 years. It was annoying and ugly to her. Around December she asked the Lord to remove it and nothing happened. She said to God that it was fine, and she trusted him. The Lord asked her if it was no big deal, and she said no. This week she was in bed rubbing it and noticed it was gone! Monica said, "Be patient, and wait, and when you least expect it... surprise!"
- Our men's group, Band of Brothers, turned in the following answers to prayer for February: healing for 2 of their wives, plus an ongoing healing; 2 family members restored; 1 smoking addiction broken; and 8 times prayers answered for relief from pain. Praise God for answered prayer and for our prayer warrior men!

- **Beauty for Ashes**

Before we moved to Lebanon to care for my parents, I was employed at a business that had such a toxic atmosphere and culture that I literally felt like it was sucking the life out of me. I had to spend my mornings before work soaking in worship music, reading the Bible, and asking God to fill me and speak to me for that day. I would pray in the car the whole way to work. I had to cling to Jesus just to make it through an 8 hour day and then do it all over again the next day. Not that this is a bad place to be, anything that drives us to an intimate dependence on God is always, ultimately, a good thing! *BTW, It was a small town with not a lot of options for employment offering the pay and benefits I was receiving. While I did look for other work nothing ever came of it. Looking back, I know that God was working perseverance, faith, trust, and dependance on Him for what I would face in the future. God is so faithful! Fast forward 7 years later...

I'm now employed by VCC and working in the most uplifting and life-giving job I have ever had! The joy and peace I have getting to work for and serve this church family is so amazing. What a blessing! God is so GOOD and He truly does give us beauty for ashes!

I love you, VCC family! - Sandy

- I usually make dessert for my gathering group. I was deciding what to make for our next meeting, and I thought of pineapple upside-down cake. I have not thought of making that for decades. (Seriously, I'm getting old.)

I bought the ingredients on a Saturday, then remembered we had a birthday that week. I thought, what if they hate pineapple, or they might be allergic? I decided to ask them what they wanted for their birthday treat. I told them if they could not come up with something, it would be a pineapple upside-down cake. To my utter surprise and enjoyment, they lit up and said it was a special cake because a family member used to make it for them. I should have known.

They texted me later and said it was a Jesus gift to them based on an earlier conversation they had with Jesus. My heart swelled when I realized I got to partner with Jesus to love this person, knowing they were receiving the gift from Him.

How funny! I was worried about the cake being despised, and why did I think of making that cake after so many years? Well, now I know. -Anonymous

- As I prepared to type an outline for my sermon, I realized I was having severe allergy symptoms. I had already taken everything I could take and had on hand. I thought it was much worse than it had been in prior years.

Then, I thought, I'm working on my sermon today. This could be the enemy, so I lifted my hands and worshipped the Lord. I called it out as an attack and said I would not partner with or submit to it. The symptoms disappeared soon after, and I could do the work I had hoped to do. - Jacquie

- So many have heard me say that before I came to VCC I did not like going to church. I honestly did not even like being around people very much. They drained me. There are seasons in life, and I do think I was in a season of hiding for a time. There is also something to be said about being in a community you are supposed to be in that is healthy for you as well. VCC has been that for me. I have healed and mended so much. I have been loved alive in our church by many of you. I have gone through many layers of freedom; one big step was going through deliverance with Bonnie. That caused a huge shift in my life. Right after that I could join the worship team, I didn't really want to be on worship team before, and I felt afraid to sing in front of people anyway. I have always loved worship deeply and the Lord has always talked to me in songs. To me that did not mean I had to be part of a worship team. The Lord made it clear that I was supposed to join though, so I did. It is a flat-out miracle that I can stand on stage and sing. There have been many large milestones that I have experienced while at VCC, they are miraculous actually. I can't list them all and I don't have enough space to share my whole testimony. The love and family that our church shares is very special. I'm thankful to each person who has encouraged me, championed me, and loved me so well. Thank you for being a part of my freedom. I will also add that if you want freedom you have to put in your part. Your community cannot do it all for you. God bless you all. – Felicia

If you have a story to share, please email testimony@vccalbany.com