

July Testimonies

- I was at Costco one Sunday after church recently. I had a sudden thought that I needed mayonnaise. I had made a list. I love lists and couldn't believe the mayo wasn't on it. We did need it, and we were actually almost out at home. I said to God in my mind at Costco "please help me remember to grab that before I'm out of the store." At that moment I hear something to the effect of, "Who do you think told you the first time?" Haha! God always makes me laugh. Pay attention to those sudden thoughts. They are sometimes God helping us out! I like what Bill Johnson says: Jesus is the word of God. It's hard for him to not have anything to say. He even has things to say about mayonnaise and likes to help us in our daily life! Oh, how he loves us. If only we could really grasp how much he does. - Felicia
- In Kingdom Kids, we had our elementary-age kids sit around a long table. Each had a piece of paper in front of them that they wrote their name at the top. They then would pass their papers to the left. They would ask God for a word for the person who's paper they got. After everyone was done, we would pass again. This continued until the paper ended back up with its original owner. Then that kiddo had a paper full of words from God, from their friends! The adult teachers took each kid aside and read their paper over them, speaking the truth of who they were! Then we had each child pick which word stood out to them the most from their own paper, and declare it out loud in front of the class.

We had some kids who have grown up together and we had new kids in class who didn't know anyone. Was such a cool time, practicing hearing God's word, being edified, and seeing each other and ourselves through God's eyes!

During the activity, one child got really upset. I talked to him, and his friend had called him a name. We prayed and asked he said it felt like that name had hurt his heart. He asked Jesus to pull that arrow out and heal his heart. Then asked him if that name was true and he said "NO!" He then got to go back to his paper and see all the things that were true about him! We talked about how those experiences felt different and how God will always meet us and heal us and exchange lies with truth!

Fun times! God is good! -Pam

- On June 15th the "Band of Brothers" men's group gathered around me and prayed for healing of my food allergies. A few days later, as my wife and I were traveling to Corvallis and we got close to the cemetery where my father is buried, and the Holy Spirit came on me making me emotional. I have dealt with forgiving my parent's abuse in my past and was confident that wasn't an issue anymore, but the Holy Spirit brought to mind a question that has reappeared upon several occasions in the past. How awkward will I feel if my schizophrenic father, who died in prison, recommitted his life to Jesus and is there to greet me when I reach Heaven? Because of this "spiritual reminder", forgiveness was again on my mind as we left for a weekend in Bend a few days later. Our plan was to have breakfast with Pastor Ron and Donna Griggs. Ron was my good friend when he married my wife and I in October of 2000, and he was the inspiration for our Christian Cowboy Poetry ministry years later. My plan was to take advantage of Ron's vast experience with healing ministries and ask him to pray for the healing of my food allergies. Balancing a post-heart attack heart-healthy diet and a low-histamine diet left me with very little food options that didn't make breathing difficult.

I shared with Ron my recent Holy Spirit encounter and how that had influenced me. The topic of forgiveness came up as we sat to begin our prayer-time. Ron explained how "spiritual attachments" can attach themselves

to people prior to fully forgiving someone. We spent about 20 minutes in prayer as I repeated his suggested prayer, waited for the Holy Spirit to give me a word or thought, and then I would share that word aloud. The final question presented to me was, "What does the Holy Spirit say you have to do to be healed?" Clearly, He said to me, "Love me." Confident of my healing, I have chosen to eat the many things forbidden in the past, with no negative effects to my body. To celebrate, two days ago I ate a peanut butter and banana sandwich; the first banana I have eaten in fourteen years. God continues to show His love in new ways! How many struggles do we put up with in our lives just because we fail to ask Him for healing? -Dennis Abeene

- This is my biggest miracle of all; Ephesians 1:3-5 Made personal! My adoption story! All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because I am united with Christ. Even before He made the world, God loved me and chose me in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt me into his own family by bringing me to himself through Jesus Christ. Another miracle that happened was... Last week I was notified that the storage unit was on fire where my storage unit is. The fire department fought the fire for around 25 hours. And then there were hotspot flare-ups for a few days after that. 48 storage units were totally burned out. I was concerned because it was next to mine. Everything could be replaced except for all the keepsakes. We all started praying. They wouldn't let anyone in to check their units until the fire department cleared and the insurance people had done their thing. Finally on Friday they contacted me to tell me I could come in and check my unit. It was totally fine! No smoke smell either! The fire stopped at the door where I go into my unit! I had to go through a different way because the door where I usually enter is in the roped off area and no one is allowed except the people that have the units that are totally burned. Some of the people were there trying to dig through the ashes to see if there was anything they could save. It was so sad. I felt so bad for them. I'm so thankful that mine was not touched. It had to be God! - Grandma Pickle