

Linda

In February 1976, I had a good life. Married to Bill Long, we had a good marriage. We had two sons, Craig and Dan. I was a good mom and sent my boys to Vacation Bible School at local churches.

Then I believe God put in my heart that I needed to take them to church. We went to the local Baptist Church. On the first Sunday, God got hold of my heart. I saw my need. I asked Jesus into my heart as my Savior.

I couldn't wait to tell Bill and my boys. Soon the boys came to Jesus, but Bill was a hold out. Praise the Lord; he finally did see the light.

Years kept passing. Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening services, AWANA, youth groups, we were very busy in church. Then very gradually, church slipped away. We got too busy with other things.

On September 2, 1988, God got my attention. Bill and I were in a terrible accident. Bill passed way. Praise the Lord, He's in heaven, but I was not as fortunate.

I was hurt seriously. I was in a coma for 22 days. My right leg was broken in 22 places from the knee to the ankle. My knee had popped out and the ankle was crushed. I had a lot of head and facial injuries. My lung was collapsed and I had liver injuries.

I was in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown for 40 days. Then I was sent to Harmarville Rehab by Pittsburgh. I was there for 10 weeks. I had to relearn everything: how to eat, how to dress, how to read and write, how to do math, and how to take care of the house and cook. Basically everything. These were hard times, but God is good and loving.

I have had surgeries since the accident and since I've been back home, I've had jaw surgery, eye surgery, and ankle surgery.

I received a little gift from the devil. In 1988, I needed many transfusions of blood. After 15 years, God told me to give blood for a person in Grove City who needed blood. After I gave the blood, they told me I had Hepatitis C. Praise the Lord, they do check for it now.

So I started shots once a week for 48 weeks and 6 pills a day to hopefully get rid of Hepatitis C.

The medicine, Interferon, affects my blood by killing red blood cells, so I had to start another shot once a week of Procrit.

But God is gracious; this medicine does not work in 40 % of the people who take it. So, one of many miracles, I am one that the medicine does work on my system. The medicine is awful. It really makes you sick, and sicker with each shot and pill, but God is faithful. He never left me alone. He was always there.

My joy is in my Lord. He helps me do a Good News Club at my home every Monday evening. We have 13 - 15 kids. Praise His name. He is at work in these kids' lives. I help at AWANA. Children are my ministry from God. I am becoming more active in this church. All the credit is God's. He enables me and I truly do love Him. I want to be like Jesus.