

FAITH STORY

...YOUR TURN

This past year four faith stories have been presented in Knox Talks. These stories have shown different levels of faith and routes to Christian faith.

As I was getting ready to interview the next subject, I referred to Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life." There is a whole chapter written on how to share your life's message. This is not the only resource available, but it does give a good starting point and is available in the church library or from several members of the Women of Christ Bible Study group.

This time I hope you are inspired to think about and perhaps write your life's faith message. It is an important tool for us to have as professing Christians. We are to be lights in the world and people around us know us as "religious people." When others ask us what is so good about that, we are charged with the responsibility of having an answer (2 Corinthians 5:20) so God's light will shine as bright as possible through us.

Not all of us are writers. I can remember a time when even writing a letter was a-gon-y. My thought was I had nothing important to say. Now, because I am God's child, everything I have to say is important -- to God at least. And God is not the only one it is important to. Others often think what they have to say

is unimportant as well. By telling our stories we can show them first they are not alone, second God is listening -- as well as us.

Your story may include how you began a relationship with Jesus, the most important lessons God taught you, the issues God designed you to care about most and the message of salvation.

The story of how you began a relationship with Jesus could be written in the following order:

- 1. how life was for you before you knew about Jesus**
- 2. how you realized you needed Him**
- 3. how your commitment to Him was made**
- 4. what difference this commitment and Jesus have made in your life.**

Some of us will have had a gradual progression of faith while others a sudden conversion. Neither way is best. The important point is, do God & Jesus guide your life. Some of the steps might cause deep thought and maybe there is no clear-cut answer. It then becomes a matter of putting down what has happened to you and never mind what has not.

Share your enthusiasm. It can take over here as you write what is in your heart. Don't worry about how well it is worded or how it looks; get the ideas down fast as they come (in point form if need be). Later you can go over it to fix the grammar and punctuation and clear up your ideas. Rewriting is

always part of writing.

You will want to ask yourself questions like: What has God taught me from failure, lack of money, pain or sorrow or depression and disappointment? What has God taught me through waiting and illness? What have I learned from other people around me, even my critics?

The order of writing above provides a logical progression to the presentation of the salvation message. Not all of us are comfortable with this -- even for ourselves. It is not always appropriate either. It is a matter of trial and error to discern timing. We must keep in mind the message (not us) may be rejected. We are only responsible for presenting it. It is not our job to convince. It is God's job to prepare the person to receive or reject his message. Our responsibility is to keep on loving, and loving, and loving.

I hope you will accept this challenge. I plan to give it a go myself. We would like some feedback about how it works for you. Please call or email the church. Rev. Paul or myself will be happy to hear from you.

There are lots of interesting faith stories. We would like to know who's story you want to hear. Please contact me.

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