

# *Telling Our Stories*

## **Telling Our Stories**

I invite you to tell your stories of faith and allow me, Pastor Paul, Curtis, and others who preach, to use them in or with the sermons. Not every story will be used. However, we would like to use some that are appropriate to use – either you telling them in person, you telling them on video tape, or us reading your words. They can be read anonymously if you prefer. The whole idea is to be able to share with the congregation how God has impacted your life and for us to celebrate that experience together in worship.

## **How to tell your story**

So, how can you tell your story? First, remember that your story does not have to be some dramatic, nearly beyond belief account of a dramatic conversion from a life of crime and wanton living to an entirely new, transformed life in Christ. We want to convey the real, everyday events in which we have experienced God's presence. Yours might be a story about a breakthrough in communication within your marriage. It might be about how you came to faith in Jesus. It might be about a specific answer to prayer or an experience on a mission trip, teaching Sunday School, helping in a local mission setting, or caring for an ill spouse. These are the stories that need to be told.

How can you do it? We are including a form that will facilitate telling your story.

**First**, simply and briefly describe the circumstances you were (or are) experiencing. Give enough information to explain but avoid too much information that will confuse.

**Second**, describe the things you experienced from God in those circumstances. Was it a new faith in Jesus? Was it a new sense of hope, or peace, or confidence in God's love? Simply tell what you experienced as God broke into the situation.

**Third**, tell what you learned about God, about yourself, about connecting to Jesus through the experience. How has it changed your understanding of God? How has it helped you? How did the experience change your life? Your faith? Your relationship with God?

**A Word of Caution.** Please do not include information that may be confidential or that might be hurtful to another person. Our stories are important but they are not intended to divulge inappropriate things. Use your judgment about what to include or exclude from telling your stories.

## **The Next Step**

Please use the form below as a template for writing out your faith story. When completed, please send your stories to Pastor Jim

Wilson either by mail C/O GSPC, 11600 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720, or via Email attachment – [jim@gspc.org](mailto:jim@gspc.org) or by fax – (562) 493-6311. If you prefer, you may call me at (562) 493-2553 ext. 112 to share your story verbally.

It will be encouraging for us all to hear the things God has done as we continue together ...

... on the journey of faith.

# Telling Our Stories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Describe the circumstances you were (or are) experiencing. Give enough information to explain but avoid too much information that will confuse.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Describe the things you experienced from God in those circumstances. Simply tell what you experienced as God broke into the situation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Tell what you learned about God, about yourself, about connecting to Jesus through the experience. How has it changed your life?

## How may this be used? (Check all that apply)

- I am willing to tell my story in the worship services
- I am willing to tell my story on video for use in the worship services
- I would prefer that this be read by a pastor in the worship services
- I prefer that this be read anonymously
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## The Next Step

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