

Karen Sue Jones Testimony

Bill and I are now entering our 8th decade of life and 60th year of marriage and as I reflect on all that has happened in our lives, it causes me to pause in amazement of how God is so good. It is so easy to just go about our daily lives and think we can control our destiny without the help of others. Throughout the years, we have discovered that we have been blessed so many times by the power and goodness of God.

I was blessed to have Christian grandparents who prayed for me every day. They were always telling me to memorize scripture, be faithful in reading the Bible, pray daily, and to attend church services. I am thankful for their witness to me because it prepared me to trust in God when I faced my first tragedy in life – the loss of my mother, when I was only thirteen. It seemed like none of my friends could understand the heartache that I was experiencing, but praying to God became my refuge and strength.

A few years later, God blessed me in a surprising manner when I was bemoaning the fact that my dad moved us away from my childhood home and friends to start a new life in Findlay. At my new school, I was struggling with my Chemistry assignments and so I wanted a tutor to help me. Guess who that was? Yes, Bill Jones, the mad scientist! God has a sense of humor and must have known that Bill needed a future nurse in his life. Within six months after meeting Bill, he was experimenting with chemicals in his basement and almost lost his life when the experiment blew up in his face. God had a greater plan for Bill's life because he was miraculously spared that day. As many of you know, I married him with the one condition that no chemicals would enter our home. God is faithful, but at this point in my life I was becoming a little risk adverse.

God continued to bless us with great careers, two children, a new home, and wonderful friends. How could it be any better? We were living life to its fullest and with all the busyness of our lives, my discipline in reading my Bible and praying to God had slacked off. I was soon brought to my knees in prayer when I learned that while Bill was on a business trip in England, he had collapsed and was not expected to survive. I remember standing in my front yard in the middle of the night pleading with God that he would spare me from another death in my family. I was still struggling with the loss of my mother. How could I take care of two little children without my best friend? Thankfully, I knew where my strength would come from. Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Again, God was faithful and provided for us.

We were in England for two months with Bill struggling to survive. While he was in the hospital, his business associates in England tried their best to support us. Looking back on that experience, God truly provided us with Christian friends, both in England and the USA, who were praying for us every day. As I walked daily from my motel to the hospital down a lovely English road, I was able to commune with the Lord. I was reminded of that beautiful poem, "Footprints in the Sand", where a person envisions being carried by the Lord when two sets of footprints become one.

In Deuteronomy 31:8: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." I truly believe this scripture verse because even though we have had more harrowing medical experiences (with Bill), family estrangements, etc. God has never forsaken us. Bible studies, church services, Sunday school lessons, mission work, retreats, puppet ministry, etc. have all encouraged our Christian growth and faith in our Lord. We are truly blessed and are so thankful to live in a country that we can freely worship God.

With all that I have shared with you so far, I have missed a very important part of my life that I feel was definitely a “calling” from the Lord. I feel that God called me to become a nurse, much like when a pastor is called to the ministry. God used my experience with grief to help me become a compassionate nurse, especially with the patients and family at the time of death. For the last 60 years, I have been able to pray with others in their time of need, comfort them, physically help them to survive, educate them on health issues, and be an advocate for their health. I am so blessed to be able to serve the Lord through this healing ministry. I am also blessed to have children and grandchildren who love the Lord and serve Him in different capacities. I hope that I can continue to serve the Lord here on earth in whatever way He leads me and that I never lose the desire to serve Him.

I am so thankful for my church family. It is such a joy to attend church each Sunday and to be challenged through the sermons, the Sunday Morning Grow Bible lessons, Bible studies, worship music, and the Christian fellowship. At times when I try to be in charge of my own destiny, I am constantly reminded that God has a perfect plan for my life and I need to put my faith and trust in Him always. Praise God for his faithfulness to each of us.

Karen Sue Jones