

## STORIES OF GRACE

Members of our church family share their stories of Grace.  
*Glenn (Jay) and Curtis Oliver from Curtis' perspective*



Let's see, where do I begin to describe God's grace as it has been experienced over the years in my family's life? In every twist and turn in life's journey His grace has been evident. There have been ups and downs but God has been there every step of the way.

Dad (Jay) was born in Greencastle, PA and was raised on a farm along with two brothers and a sister. He served in the European Theater in World War II as part of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from August 1944 to June 1946. God graciously protected him throughout this time and allowed him to safely return home. Mom (Irene) was born in Waynesboro along with two brothers and a sister. They were married on April 3, 1948 and were able to share 66 years together which certainly was a blessing from God.

My brother (Doug) and I were blessed by being raised in a Christian home and accepting Christ as our Savior at a young age. The influence of godly parents is always something to be thankful to God for. I didn't always appreciate this when I was younger but certainly have as I have gotten older. Part of this godly influence was the emphasis to attend church. Not just as a duty, but as a place to worship, fellowship, and be edified. I am thankful that God has allowed me to be a Sunday School/Christian Education teacher for over 30 years.

Another godly influence on my life was attending Grace College. The very name of the college says it all! I graduated in 1983 with a degree in Chemistry. The Professors that taught the Bible classes had a lasting impression on me, particularly Dr. Manahan who would become President of Grace College and Seminary.

Dad worked at Letterkenny Army Depot for 35 years and retired in 1983. I have worked at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD as a Chemist for the past 30 years. We certainly thank God for the occupations he has allowed us to have, the opportunity to be a witness at these occupations, and for safety in travel. I have traveled back to Waynesboro on almost every weekend from Edgewood, MD. I recently calculated that in doing this, I have traveled over 300,000 miles in the past 30 years.

Last year was a particularly difficult one for the family. Mom was diagnosed with cancer in May and went home to be with the Lord in June. Although it was very difficult, I consider it a blessing that we were able to spend time caring for her during this time. Her witness to those around her and her attitude throughout her illness were a testimony to her trust in her Savior and a great example to the rest of us.

In reality, every breath that we take and every beat of our heart is because of God's grace. As Christians we should see His grace working in every aspect of our lives whether they are 'good' times or 'bad' times. God told the Apostle Paul that "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9, ESV)

