

STORIES OF GRACE

Our church family shares their story of Grace
BECKNER FAMILY



Opposites do attract... Crystal and I grew up in extreme opposite family conditions. Crystal was born into a family grounded in the gospel and in the Grace Brethren Church and attended church from birth till now, to include attending church here at Grace since 1977. I, on the other hand, was born into a family that attended church only until I was age two then never attended again as a family. However, as I grew up, God placed men and women into my life that He assigned to get me to know Him. These families or individuals, some no longer in this world, through the direction of God, were used to ensure that I was trained and taught His Word. Through these people I was taken to Sunday school and church, revivals, and Vacation Bible School (VBS).

It was at VBS the summer between 3rd and 4th grades that I accepted Christ as my Savior, which is why Crystal and I seek and desire to have VBS each summer at Grace. We want any child, especially ones that do not attend a church, to come and have the love of Christ shared with them, so that maybe they will get to know Christ and accept Him as their Savior, also.

After accepting Christ, I had the privilege of being sent to a church camp, then joined the scouting program where God placed some men of God into my life. Through them, without living in a godly home, they showed me how to grow in Christ. I worked at Scout Camps on staff for many years, and while stationed in Korea, I was able to be on staff at a Word of Life Camp, which changed my camp focus from a fun only purpose to a purpose of using those skills to share Christ.

Fast forward to 13 years ago, Pastor Roger asked me to help at Camp Grace as the Activities Director, which gave me the ability to share Christ and fun with children and last year I was made the District Camp Director for Junior Camp. Because of this desire, Crystal and I feel led to get as many children and students to Camp Grace as possible to help them have a time and place to focus on their relationship with God.

Crystal and I serve together in the local church and we also serve in the community together through the Waynesboro Children's Theatre Troupe. We feel that serving is a way to be the hands and feet of Christ and to share His love. We have been blessed with four children, Sarah, Katherine, Jacob, and Natalie that have been raised in the church, but also have been raised to serve, instead of being served. This, we feel, helps them to understand the love of Christ and share it in a fuller way. And last but not least, we have also been blessed with a son-in-law, Will Elgin, and granddaughter, Aleigh.