

**Zach and Micaela's God Story:** Our God Story is currently being played out!

We had struggled with infertility for many years. In February we spontaneously went down to the Asbury revival. While there, we went to the altar to pray together. We asked God to make known to us His plans for us. Whether it was for us to have a baby or not. We asked for peace in whichever answer.

March 20th, we had an appointment to meet with an infertility clinic to discuss our options.

February 25th, 1 week after Asbury we found out we were pregnant!

This pregnancy has been extremely challenging, the first 4 months I was extremely sick, in and out of the hospital, losing 30 pounds, needing a home health nurse at one point. But through it all God has been GOOD and has been FAITHFUL!!!

We are expecting a little girl on November 7th. The day after my 29th birthday!!

We would love to share this story with the church about how God is present in every season, every detail, he is working things out for us even when we feel hopeless.

He can do immeasurably more than we can think or imagine. He is so good.

**Mary Ann's God Story:**

I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in November 1965 and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in January 1966. At that time, I was in a traditional Pentecostal denomination which emphasized speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and I did experience an outflow of tongues coming from deep within my being. Over the years, I experienced many outward manifestations of the Spirit and, although I did not realize it at the time, many of the workings of the Gifts of the Spirit through the ministry of teaching.

But coming to Cornerstone Chapel, I began to have a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit and experienced a deeper relationship with God and the Spirit. Which brings me to my God Story.

In March 2021, my husband experienced a massive heart attack - one that the doctors referenced as a STEMI and which we call the "widow maker." He had been rushed to the main campus of the Cleveland Clinic and by the time my son and I arrived, they had already determined that surgery to open the blockages was not an option; his heart was functioning at only 30%. He was placed on a balloon pump to enable the heart to pump more blood. Over the next several days we waited to see what the heart would do but it became obvious that he may not recover. They were unable to wean his heart off the pump, toxins were building up in his body, and the blood oxygen levels were dropping. On day four, just as I was getting ready to leave for the night, one of the heart doctors came in [that was a miracle as it seems you never

get to see a real doctor] and I was able to have a frank discussion with him about the true status. He spoke honestly and explained that it looked like weaning him off the heart pump was not going to be successful. He proposed that we wait to see what happened overnight but if there was no change, it would be appropriate for us to meet with the palliative team in the morning to discuss allowing him to transition [a nice word doctors are trained to use]. Not what I wanted to hear but I knew in my heart he was right.

So now I leave the Clinic for home. That means traveling back down Chester Avenue and finding the turn to get to I-71; and then it is necessary to move over several lanes of traffic to go south on I-71. It felt like God was moving my car through the traffic as I finally rounded the Metro-Health curve. And all this time I'm verbally talking to God about what I should do. Now heading down I-71 with the 75-80 mph flow of traffic, I suddenly experienced the Holy Spirit take over my conversation with God - me praying and God speaking comfort in His answer. I know that all this time I traveled past the airport, past Strongsville, and then into Medina County at Brunswick, but I was in a different realm. At the end of this encounter with the Holy Spirit speaking a spiritual language beyond comprehension, I knew that I knew it was going to be okay to make the necessary medical decision.

This is not to say that it was easy to make that decision, tell the nurse it was time to stop the pump, and then watch my husband take his last breath. But I knew what God had spoke through the Spirit, and we felt the strength and comfort of the Spirit surrounding us.

And over the last couple of years when I feel a sadness in my soul, God draws me back to that picture of my I-71 encounter with the awesomeness of how the Holy Spirit ministered to me that day and I know its okay. I will forever give Him praise!

## **Brad's God Story:**

God has always been my provider, and he has an undefeated record in my life!

With that said, in my life, I've walked away from God. He always pursued me, but I ran as far as I could away from him. He has always been waiting like a good father to take care of his son exactly the way scripture says he will.

When I chose the Way of the flesh, sin bred harsh consequences.

To some people, they say thy will be done.

And in my case, God said, have it your own way so I did

I didn't experience a physical death, but what I did go through was a spiritual death.

Loneliness lurked around me, and I filled the God shaped hole with alcohol and relationships.

All the while I was attending churches, because my heart, and the Holy Spirit knew where home was.

In November 2021 I turned my will and my life over to the care of God and Jesus.

Through a 12 step program, I begin an intimate relationship with the God my creator .

I began a journey that would carry me to new places .

God surrounded me with his kids, and they pointed the way to him every step of the way.

About a year into my sobriety, I met the absolute girl of my dreams.

We both knew we had a divine appointment with a Church Home we just didn't know where.

We tried one Church not such good results

I made the suggestion -cornerstone Chapel.

Our first time to cornerstone, we knew we had found our church home.

Finally A place where we could both grow individually and together in a house of believers.

I remember Pastor Mark giving the hard sermon on tithing.

I had tithed before, and I never had difficulties in doing so. So, I thought let's give this a shot. I began to tithe, and although I had been through a divorce, and my finances were close to nil a lot of the time.

God showed his faithfulness. Unexpected blessings started to inundate me, and this blessing continues on today.

I thank you All my brothers and sisters at Cornerstone Chapel for loving on me -for teaching me -for welcoming me. So that I may have a clear and present path to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## **Kristen's God Story:**

As many of us have, I have worn multiple hats throughout my life: Daughter, wife, mother, friend, co-worker. However, I always defined my identity and calling through my work as an Occupational Therapist. In fact, I vividly remember the moment that I discovered occupational therapy. At 15 years old, I came home from volunteering at MDA summer camp, and I began googling fields to "help others". I knew it was in my blood to be a helper. I came across the word occupational therapy, read the description, lit up and ran downstairs to tell my mom that I found my calling. I was going to be an OT. That was my identity- my purpose- my calling.

It wasn't until I took the Flourish class that I realized what my true calling was: to know God and to help others to know God. I now know that God has used OT as a means to an end to accomplish my true calling in life of knowing him and bringing others closer to him.

Here is my story- it's a simple story, but for me it was life changing.

Talking about God or praying with someone in the healthcare field has always been in my mind— taboo. It was risky and extremely uncomfortable for me and honestly, I avoided it at all costs. I could barely figure out how to pray myself, let alone pray with others and risk getting in trouble for mixing religion in the work force.

One day after taking the flourish class, I was praying on my way to work, to have the holy spirit work through me and use me to help bring others closer to him —a suggestion given to me. That day I walked into my patient's room to do therapy with him, and I see him crying and just filled with anxiety. I came to find out that he has just received the terrible news that his days left on this earth were numbered. He was dying and he was going to have to call his family and tell them.

As I am standing there watching this man crying and living his life in fear and desperation, I felt God move through me. The hair was standing up on the back of my neck and my hands were tingling. I remember thinking to myself "oh my gosh. This is it. This is what he is talking about. This is God right now and he is trying to work through me! This is it. Do not miss this opportunity!!"

So, I gently took my patient's hand, and I asked him if he was- for lack of a better term in the moment- religious. He told me he used to be years ago, but he had not been to church in a long time. I told him that was okay and asked him if we wanted to pray. He said yes and we held hands and prayed the Our Father, and I added my own prayers in at the end praying for understanding, peace, and comfort for him on his journey home. After that prayer he was no longer crying but had a look of complete serenity. He was so grateful for the prayers. It was in that moment that I knew God was real and I knew God used me to do my calling of knowing and loving God myself and then helping others to know God and be reminded of his unwavering love.

In disbelief that this experience had happened, I immediately went back to my desk and texted my husband and Pastor Deb about my experience. I was just in awe of the power of God that I had just witnessed and physically felt. My calling was revealed, and I am now on a mission for God.

I am here to tell you that God is good. God is real. God provides and he reveals himself to us. Sometimes we just need to turn the distractions, put away our fears and let God work through us to touch the lives of others, just as God has touched my life. He can touch yours too if you open your mind and heart to him. You can do your true calling to help bring others closer to knowing God the father, our Savior.

Pastor Deb said once at our small group that she wants to “crave God” and that really stuck with me. I encourage everyone to continue to crave God and do what we can to help others to crave to know God, to know his love for us and his wonderful power he has in our lives. It’s our most important mission- our true calling.

God is so good. Amen.

### **Josh’s God Story:**

Hey there, Pastor Mark! I just wanted to say thank you for today! At the end when you were talking about feeling the holy spirit and not always feeling the holy spirit. It's always there. When we were all praying at the end, I was praying but my mind always tends to wander a lot. But I got the feeling coming straight from the center of my body, radiating/flowing from the center to my arms, my legs, my back, just literally felt like it was circling my body. Idk. But for a split second I was like what is that?! And I stopped questioning it. I knew, I KNEW, it was the holy spirit! And just let it happen without reason. My eyes began to flow two streams of tears but there was no reason to feel sad at that moment. It was wild! Also, I made sure to sign up from Growth Trac 😊

### **Jinny’s God Story:**

On April 18, 2023, I was driving home on Pearl Rd. in Medina Township, when I started to have problems with my vision! I began having colors in front of my eyes! At this point, I should have pulled off the road, but I didn't! Instead, I fainted, and hit a telephone pole! My air bag never deployed during this accident! The next thing I remember, I was being put into an ambulance, and taken to the Medina ER. Because the Medina ER is not a trauma unit, they couldn't keep me, so I was then whisked off to the Akron General ER!

The hospital decided to have me admitted overnight for observation! While in the ER, I was experiencing vomiting and diarrhea! I had come from a restaurant, so I wondered if I had encountered food poisoning! That was never verified! They did a thorough evaluation: an EKG, a CT scan of my chest, pelvis, abdomen, an Echocardiogram, and was sent home with a heart monitor for two weeks. All these tests were negative! The only pain I encountered through this whole ordeal was a sore chest and back from hitting the steering wheel!

My Big God protected me Big Time! I didn't even break my glasses!

Then came the issue of my car which had been totaled in the accident! It was a 2002 Toyota Camry that was still in good shape! I had recently put \$2,000.00 into it to keep it going, but that had depleted my bank account! Let's just say, I was not in a position to buy another car! Then my brother, Dan, called and offered to give me \$5,000.00 toward another car. That was Miracle #2!

Miracle #3 I was talking to my son, Chris, about this situation, and he reminded me that his daughter, Melanie, had taken a job across the ocean in the Czech Republic, and was selling her 2017 Honda Fit!! I immediately called my granddaughter, Melanie, and asked her about buying her car! I explained about the money I had received from my brother, and she said that she wanted me to have her car and would sell it to me for \$7,000.00!! I checked online, and it was worth at least twice that amount!

I received her car on May 18, exactly one month to the day of my accident I totaled a 2002 Toyota and was blessed with a 2017 Honda! Is God good or what? God has been so faithful to me my whole life! And that is my God Story!!