

I would like to share some of my testimony in the hope that it will inspire others to seek God first in their own lives as I have sought Him in my life for the last 3 ½ months. My heart is so full of thanksgiving and praise to God for leading me to the Living Hope International Ministry, its teachings and its warm, compassionate leadership and fellow believers.

I was raised Roman Catholic but at the age of 18 I left and began my lifelong journey to find God. I investigated every major religion and joined some of them; I was a Lutheran for a brief time; a Mormon; an Evangelical Christian for three years, and subsequently rejoined the Catholic Church because I could not find any body of Christians who provided a spiritual path that would draw me closer to God.

In the fall of 1980 I was reading the Bible one evening in Luke 4:1-13 about the temptations of Christ. I had just read verse 6 when I looked up and crossing my front yard heading for my front door was a young man I had not seen before in our apartment complex. His name is not important but he introduced himself and explained he was a WOW Ambassador with the Way Ministry. Seeing the Bible in my hand he asked if I understood what I was reading. That was the beginning of my journey toward the wonderful, matchless God we worship today.

I graduated from the Foundational Class on my 28th birthday in 1980 and was a WOW Ambassador in 1984-85 in Ithaca, New York. That is where I came to know Reverend Vince Finnegan; he was in a leadership position in New York and oversaw our outreach throughout the state at that time. Although I was to eventually part ways with the Way in 1998, during my sojourn there I learned how to read the Bible and became familiar with the possibilities and spiritual opportunities available through a close relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The next 15 years were a spiritual desert for my husband, me, and our 3 children. The kids grew up and started their own lives and my husband, Andrew and I endeavored to continue with God by ourselves. The main stumbling block to joining any of the churches available to us was their belief that Jesus was God. Both of us had cleaved to the truth that he was not God; something we had been taught in the Ministry, and we refused to return to this erroneous belief even though we were spiritually starving to death for lack of accurate teaching and fellowship. We formed our own family fellowship but over time even that could not sustain us and without the living waters of the rightly-divided Word of God, we hungered and thirsted. We even began considering a return to the Way but just could not bring ourselves to take that step.

In January of 2012 we made a New Year's Resolution to diligently seek a church that would satisfy our hunger and support our core beliefs and God led us to the Internet where we found the Living Hope Int'l Church. I was stunned to discover the Church's founding minister was Reverend Vince Finnegan. We began to listen to the Sunday teachings online and had great joy but the world intervened in a series of external pressures and health issues and we fell by the wayside. Then, on December 26, 2012, I was taken to the hospital with acute pneumonia and sepsis (a combination of staph and strep). I was not given a good prognosis; in fact, my husband and family were told to prepare for the worst. I have no memory of those two weeks when I was in a coma but when I did reach consciousness my first thoughts were thankfulness to be alive despite the fact that no one except my family believed I'd make it.

Once I was home and recovering I spoke with my husband and told him it was time to quit fuddling around and take a stand. Either we believed the Bible was the Word of God or we didn't. It was time to develop a commitment to Him and reaffirm our belief in Him. I went back to the website for LHIM and we started listening to the Sunday teachings and availing ourselves of the numerous resources available on the website and in the bookstore. We put away speculations and every "lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God" and we began the process of "taking every thought captive to the

obedience of Christ.” (II Corinthians 10:5). Our daughter, Caroline, along with her three children also wanted to know more. My youngest son, James, began to question and seek spiritual answers so it has been joyous helping him to make godly, spiritual decisions. My oldest son, Matthew and his wife, Kaylynne, have struggled with the “Jesus Christ is God” issue but are asking questions and they are both on our prayer list; we believe God will open their hearts to the truth of who Jesus Christ is and help them to experience the joy and delight of God’s Word as we do.

Since February, 2013, all our lives have been enriched and have overflowed with a greater knowledge and understanding of God than we have ever before experienced. Each day is a spiritual journey of exploration and solid answers to prayer. The more we learn the more we realize we have still so much more to learn! However, having the spiritual lifeline to LHIM has drawn us closer to God and to the accuracy of His Word. Reverend Finnegan makes himself available when we have questions or concerns and his compassion and heart are evident in his speech and manner.

We have started a Bible Fellowship that meets on Tuesday evenings and have 12 people agreeing to attend. We are so excited by our times of witnessing and sharing God’s Word with other heart-hungry people who have lost their way in the worldly wilderness. We are daily thankful for the oversight of Reverend Finnegan and the other ministers who assist him in his godly endeavors. We are looking forward to the opportunity to personally visit Latham, New York and attend one of the Sunday fellowships available there.

Finally, we realize that although we are in our 60’s we still have time to turn our lives around, get serious, and help others to know the Father so they, too, can reach others. Thank you for allowing me to share some of my spiritual journey. Our past has taught us what the Word is **not**; by virtue of the Living Hope Ministry, God is again teaching us what the Word is.

Respectfully,

Teri Carlon