

What Faith Can Do / Faith Walk Concert

I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:1-2



Mission Statement

- To encourage people to trust that God will take care of their daily needs. Even in bad times, He has our best interest in mind.
- To encourage people to love one another and lift each other up.
- To encourage people to spread the good news proclaimed in the Gospel.



Vision

- The love of God will show through the hearts, words, and actions of the people in the WELS.
- People will be inspired to use their time, treasure, and talents for the Lord.
- People in the WELS will speak the truth in love and spread the good news that they have eternal life through Jesus' sacrifice.
- The Word of God will spread and the lost will come to know Jesus as their Savior.



History

- Came to faith in 1983 in college through friends
- Witnessed to my fiancé who also came to faith
- Married in 1984 in WELS church in Victoria, MN
- Had first child in 1986 and decided on Christian day schools for all our children



History

- Had a passion for singing and joined the church choir
- Auditioned for and joined Cantabile Singers in 1992 and sang with them for 17 years
- Had third and final child in 1993
- Taught Sunday School
- Became Publicity Director for Christian Life Ministries in the late 1990's



History

- Went to Arizona on a mission trip with people from my church to paint, repair, and restore a community building on our WELS campus and Indian reservation
- This project introduced me to WELS Kingdom Workers and I became part of the first chapter here in the Twin Cities



History

- Service has been part of my life since I joined the WELS
- Music has been part of my life since an early age
- Faith in Christ Jesus has been a big part of my adult life
- Thought I had strong faith



Trials

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (James 1:2)

- Financial issues
- Marriage issues
- Problems with one of my sons
- Weight issues
- So busy with service, forgot to pray
- Worried about so many things and forgot to have faith that God knows what's best for me and will provide what I need



The Solution

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

- Learned to *really have faith* and give God control over my life and to *pray* (still learning)
- Lost weight
- Marriage saved
- Financial blessings
- Son came back to faith



Another Trial

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
Psalm 46:1-2*

- Diagnosed with a brain tumor in May 2009
- Tumor wrapped around hearing nerve, growing into facial nerve and brain stem
- 50/50 chance of losing hearing in my left ear with the removal of tumor through brain surgery



Another Trial

- 10% chance of facial paralysis with brain surgery
- Already having problems with hearing and control of facial muscles
- Possibility of not being able to sing after surgery
- Chance of death



Faith

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11*

- Had faith that whatever the outcome, God had good things in store for me
- Had hundreds of people praying for me
- Sang solos at various WELS churches every Sunday until my surgery, August 13
- Found great joy in singing contemporary Christian music



Outcome

- Physical outcome of surgery: lost hearing in left ear and some function in my face
- Tried singing again as soon as possible and found I could still do it in a limited capacity (no more bands or choirs)
- Solo singing of contemporary Christian music improving slowly with the removal of the tumor
- Found more joy in this type of singing than past singing



Summary

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

- Tumor was a blessing from God - without it, would never have begun this music ministry
- Have faith and trust that God will provide what you need
- Pray
- Love one another and lift each other up
- Do good works, not because we have to, but because we're grateful and want to share God's love with others



Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me. Therefore go and
make disciples of all nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of the age.

