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# The Lord has a plan for your life!

Contributed by Dan Printz  
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I do not ever remember not going to church. When I was young boy until I graduated from high school my Mom and Dad took my sister, brother and me to church every time the doors where open.

Once I graduated from high school I stopped going to church and I ran just as hard from the Lord as I could. You see, even though I was running from the Lord He had a plan for my life.

Ever since I was in high school I've wanted to be a North Carolina Highway Patrolman. Since I was not 21 years of age, and too young to apply for the Highway Patrol, I accepted a job as a firefighter in the city of Rocky Mount, NC. Once I turned 20 1/2 I began to seek out the NCSHP to become a Trooper. I was told by a Sgt. that they were not taking applications from the street but that I needed to have collage or military service. Being married, collage was out the question, so I joined the US Marine Corps. Even when I was in the Corps. God was working in my life.

In the Marine Corps. I was an outstanding Marine, and served at several different duty stations. I ultimately won "The Marine of the Year" competition at Millington, TN. Because of budget cuts I was separated from the Corps. I didn't understand it because I did not get to serve my full year as "Marine of the Year" not to mention I loved the Marine Corps. But God was working in my life even though I did not realize it.

After leaving the Marine Corps. I took a nose dive. After a failed first marriage (while in the Marine Corps.) I began what my wife tells me is a path to self destruction. I was emotionally abusive to my wife, kids and myself. But God had a plan for my life.

Then the NC Highway Patrol called! WOW! I finally got the job that I always wanted. I did not need God or anybody else in my life, I had the Patrol. Then tragedy struck! I was diagnosed with a brain tumor and an arteriovenous malformation (brain AVM). I was devastated!

When the doctor operated on me I was told that they were going to do both operations at the same time. But 16 hrs. into the tumor operation they had to close me up because I could not be under anesthesia for any longer. The doctors rescheduled my brain AVM surgery for three weeks later. I was told the day before my second surgery that the doctor would not operate because if he cut into my scab that it would leave a severe scar. The doctor and I argued about whether or not he was going to operate. I wanted him too, but he did not want to. I won. (Now, this is God's mercy and providence at work!) The next morning as he was operating on my brain AVM (that surgery took 22 hrs.) I had a major brain aneurysm. It left me paralyzed on my right side, I couldn't walk, talk, read or write. I forgot how to spell, say my ABC's, count and talk. I forgot I was married, that I had three kids, that I had a father, brother, sister. The only person that I remembered was my Momma. Crying was the only form of communication that I had. I was told later that if the doctor was not operating on my head that I would have died because it was a major brain bleed!!!

After a short recovery process (8 months, another one of God's miracles), I finally, (or so I thought, God's not through with me yet) recovered and went back to work on the Highway Patrol. Later I had a seizure that took me off of the patrol. Two weeks before I had a seizure I had given my life to the Lord! It was not easy to leave the job that I always wanted, but with the Lord's guidance, help, mercy and grace I was able keep my second marriage. I'm married to a wonderful woman that gives me courage everyday to keep going. I have three children, and two grand children. I was also able to attend Gunsmithing school, be elected Mayor of Yanceyville, NC and appointed chairman of Caswell County Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Jesus is good!

I have since gone through a third tumor surgery. I can not believe the difference between the first two surgeries and my last surgery. The difference was the confidence in my salvation. The first two times I was scared to death. But the last time I had such a peace about me that I can not explain. What a difference! I knew that if I died that I was going to be with the Lord!!! No, I'm not a fatalist. I know that my wife, children and grandchildren plus my relatives would have missed me, but oh what a happy time that would have been!

God is not through with me yet! and neither is He with you! The Bible says: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23 ESV

I did not know that I was a sinner, I thought that I was a pretty good guy and did not need a savior, or did I?

I used to joke about hell and when I get there when I was in the Corps. I used to say: "Marines never die, they just go to hell and regroup!" Man! What a foolish statement.

The Bible says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 ESV

Jesus says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 ESV

And Jesus said: "I am the Way, Truth and the Life. No ones comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 ESV

Please pray with me: I confess to God that I am a sinner, that I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and that He was raised again on the third day and that He is seated on the right hand of God intercessing on my behalf. And that I believe that Jesus Christ is my savior, that I am washed in His blood and confessing Him to be my personal Savior.

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, or like me you rededicated your life back to the Lord, please seek out a Christian church that believes in the whole council of God and seek out a Pastor, Deacon or other Christian to help you begin your walk with the Lord. And remember: "God is not through with you yet!"

"Semepr Fi" Dan Printz

John 14:6 <(><