



## My name is Tracy Boggs and this is my story.

I was born in Fort Worth, Texas. I am the second to the oldest sibling being just nine months and one day younger than my oldest sibling. I was born premature; that is why I am so short (joke - I'm over 6 ft. tall). I was a healthy baby (4-5lbs), but being premature I was kept in an incubator. While I was in the incubator a nurse had propped a bottle up in my mouth and left me. My lungs began to fill up with milk almost causing my death. When I was around five years old I was bit by a Copperhead snake while watching the telephone man work out in front of our house. This also was a near death experience for me. Through both of these episodes I can look back and know that God had a reason for me to live. Despite these near tragedies, I had a happy childhood and remember being taught about God from my parents.

In middle school I started running with the wrong crowd; cursing, being disrespectful, and selfish. In high school I got involved in football and track. Like any teenager, I was doing what I wanted to do and what made me happy. I thought I was happy, but it never really lasted. I graduated and went onto college in Iowa at Teikyo Westmar University. Going off to college for the first time gave me a sense of freedom; of being on my own, though still being supported by mom and dad. It did not take me long to abuse this freedom. I went through many wrong relationships with women saying just about anything to get what I wanted. I would go from one girl to another but always being dissatisfied inside.

Finally, my life changed! I came to know GOD in 1993. It was the summer of 1993 in Cherokee, Iowa. I remember getting down on my knees and looking up into the stars thinking how amazing God was! I repented of my sins and asked the Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior. The Lord had lead a girl that I was dating, named Jamie, into my life. Jamie was very active in the church. I saw that I needed what Jamie had. I remember my salvation experience as if it happened yesterday! The Lord came into my life as soon as I asked Him to be my Lord and Savior. The void inside of me was no longer there - in its place was a sense of real joy!

I began to attend a church in Cherokee, Iowa and was baptized. I remember starting a Bible study with my college roommate. I also joined the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and began studying and learning to praise the Lord in song and prayer. After being saved for about a year, I decided to transfer back to Texas to be closer to my family. I went to the University of North Texas in Denton. Sadly, I drifted away from the Lord for a while and did not join a good church. I eventually ended up becoming a member at the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, TX.

On March 1, 2001 I met my future wife, Kim. On April 12th, 2001 I proposed, and we were married on June 1, 2002. We enjoyed the next two years as husband and wife. I had always wanted to have children, so we were trying to have a child. A year and a half later my wife and I got the good news that she was expecting! On January 26, 2005 our son Gatlin Keith Boggs was born. At that time, we had joined Prestonwood Baptist Church. I had first heard the pastor preaching on the radio and wanted to go hear him in person. God later blessed us with another child, Samantha Leann Boggs. born on April 17, 2009.

Later that same year a shocking event happened in my family. It was on June 22 of that year. We had decided to take the kids to a local park nearby our home in Corinth. We had visited that park many times before and really enjoyed it. I vividly remember starting out from the house like any other time going to the park; my son driving

his motorized Jeep and my wife pushing our two month old daughter in the stroller. It was a beautiful day - not too hot for a late morning in June. I remember thinking before we left that the battery in my son's Jeep sounded a little weak and that I should get the extra battery but had forgotten to do so. When we got there I noticed there was a man reading a book on the park bench. We were not there long when the jeep began to run out of power. I told my wife that I would run back home and get the other battery and be back soon. I was almost home when I got a phone call from my wife. She was crying and I had a hard time understanding what she was saying. I hung up thinking it was just a bad phone connection and called her back. When she picked up I heard her said, "That man at the park shot me"! I remember yelling "WHAT - I'M ON MY WAY!". I hung up and called 911 while running to get in my truck to rush to the park. . At that moment I felt so many emotions. I felt scared and angry denying this could have happened, and the tears came. When I got there I drove the truck up to the park bench. My wife was sitting there with a bloody baby blanket on her head and neck. At that time my son was up in the playground equipment refusing to come down. The first police officer that arrived on scene wanted me to leave in order to protect the scene until I told him she was my wife. I was allowed to hold my son, but my daughter was being held by a teacher whom my wife had contacted from across the street. Shortly after the officer arrived the ambulance showed up and asked if they could check my daughter out - thankfully she was fine. Then they asked permission to take my son to CPS to be interviewed and protected. I was taken to the police station to be questioned. They had to rule me out as a suspect. My wife was put in the ambulance and taken to a nearby school where Care Flight had landed and was prepared to fly her to a Dallas hospital. When I arrived at the Police Department I was taken into a room and questioned by detective and a Texas Ranger. I remember thinking "is this it? do they think I did it? am I going to be able to see my Kim again"? The interview lasted about 45 minutes. Finally, I was allowed to go to the local hospital to check on my daughter and to pick up my son who was taken there as well. At that point CPS asked to talk to me about our marriage and family to ensure that the kids were going to be safe. I went into a room and answered all their questions. My sister in law took my kids so I could head to Dallas to check on Kim. While driving to Dallas my emotions ran wild - I was doing good to drive myself there not knowing if Kim was going to alive when I got there. After arriving at Parkland Hospital I couldn't find out where Kim was because they were protecting her. Eventually, after showing my ID, I was able to see my wife. After only two days the hospital released my her to go home where I would care for her. Kim had been shot in the head just below her right ear with the bullet exiting her neck just below her jaw. The nurses showed me how to clean the wound and feed my wife through a feeding tube. So for the next month I stayed home and cared for my precious wife. Miraculously, she ended up making a full recovery! Through this, I knew God was with our family - only He could have protected them!

In all these things: my premature birth, being snake bitten, meeting my wife, the birth of my two children, and us surviving the shooting, I know that God has been with us! He has all power!

Now my family and I are members of Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, TX. But I can't help think of the years that I wasted having so little faith in God. But I have learned the truth of Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

I spent many years living for all the wrong things, but now I'm living for the Lord and I have found true contentment in Him! I urge you to seek the truth that Jesus Christ died for you and rose from the dead that you can be saved! Come to Christ; ask Him to save you, and if you'll repent of your sins (confess and forsake them) - He will! You can have the same joy and fulfillment in your life that I have!

Thank you for reading my story.