

TESTIMONIES

"Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you..."

I Peter 3:15

SOME WORDS FROM ONES WHO WORSHIP AT BROADMAN



My wife, Joanna, and I have been bouncing around the country going church to church since being married in 1999 due to my serving in the Air Force. Prior to that, my parents, from my childhood to well into my adult life, always provided me the environment to know God. I have had, and continue to have a very blessed family life, of which faith in Jesus Christ continues to be the center of it all!

In my younger years, I prayed for the successes of a young man (career, goals) and my faith limped along, in part, because of His allowance of those shallow prayers. These past many years however, for almost my entire military career, I have prayed earnestly for God to send me where he needs me to be. To allow me to serve Him and to give me the strength to walk whatever path that is put down in front of me. It was when I opened my heart to God that I began to find myself continually in a better place than I could have chosen for myself (meeting and marrying a woman as amazing as Joanna, having Daniel and Anna, being home for my Mother and Father these past years in their time of need). With each step down this path, I have to wonder when God is going to send me and am amazed at the things he allows into my life. I continue to pray daily to help me be a better stronger man for God, my family and the church. I do not deserve the blessings that Christ has allowed in my life but thank Him every day for them.

I have and continue to make mistakes in my life...daily. I have had periods in my life where I was driven to strengthen my relationship with Christ, but never have I felt so compelled to nurture and show my love for God than these past few years. My wife, children and extended family help to give me a strong motivation to become closer to God in all I do. It has taken me many years to realize that although it is important to strive to do well, God's grace is found in realizing that I have done wrong; to seek his forgiveness and to work hard to do better with His help in the future.

Broadman Baptist Church has given my family and me a solid foundation, through Christ, to continue to build our faith upon. We are all truly blessed to have found a church home here [in January 2011] and look forward to many years of service. God bless!.

.....-- **JIM RIPPLE [born 1966]**