

Debra Trevino – My Faith Journey

One must trust a guide when walking by faith. I learned to walk as my mother guided me, each of us holding the end of a broomstick and I learned to walk by faith holding the handle of a dog's harness. I wanted the simple faith of my grandmother who was barely literate enough to read her Bible and took every opportunity to walk to church with her. A second major influence was mandatory Sunday school and church attendance policies of school for the blind at the closest Southern Baptist church. We had access to the Bible in Braille but it was KJV and remained mostly a mystery. One spiritual detour took me from high school in Kentucky to Maryland upon the Army's transfer of my Dad to Aberdeen. When pleading with God did not change my parents' minds so I could stay with my friends, my faith was not able to withstand my anger and disappointment. I turned away from God, engaging in self-destructive behavior—what I knew would be an unhappy marriage, an unwanted abortion and subsequent divorce, wandering over wilderness paths nearly nine years. I met Leslie, my second husband, just as I was employed at Walter Reed and a coworker began to gently guide me back to God. I found a good Bible teaching church and my faith grew. I was under conviction of sin by the work of the Holy Spirit and eventually came to repentance. I was truly raised to new life in Christ, finally free from the guilt of my sin as I came out of baptismal waters. A co-pastor began to mentor me; at her suggestion (after much discernment) I enrolled in Bible College and could finally study God's word in depth. Those were precious years and I learned desert wanderings could be used to help others (2 Cor. 1:3-5). We moved to Berlin, Maryland and attended Faith Baptist Church. Though I felt a call upon my life, I believed it unfair to expect Les to support my pursuit of another degree given our age difference. We joined the PC (USA) in 2001 because I was prevented from serving at FBC, even with a Bible College degree. My gifts and abilities were welcomed by Buckingham and I saw my potential for service to God's people. In 2006, Les died of leukemia. There was nothing standing in my way when I again felt God's call to seminary and ordination to ministry as teaching elder. While at LPTS, I married my soul mate, David. Since graduation (2013) I have learned to humbly trust and wait on God's timing, seeking God's will above all else. We look forward to an exciting future serving God together.