

My Faith Story

God never fails! I am John and want to share that having faith and trusting in God has produced results in my life that I never expected...

A few years ago, the church's Saturday Night Service music leaders, with prayerful consideration, announced that after twenty years they were retiring from leading worship. This led to much anxiety among the service attendees as to the future of this long running worship service. It seemed that it was difficult to find a replacement and that the service would just fade away. But God had other plans.

I had been part of the service for many years and acted as substitute leader when necessary; but having no musical talent, I felt I could not carry on the praise songs that had become an integral part of the service. More and more I was being asked about the fate of the service, whether it would continue or if a leader had been found. Many said they didn't know what they would do if it ended. Perhaps find another Saturday Night service? The problem was this was the only weekly Protestant Saturday Night service in Schuylkill County.

Seeing no workable options, **I earnestly prayed to God for guidance.** I could handle the scriptures and prayers but there would be no music. Either no one was available on Saturday nights, or they had other commitments. Having nearly given up, I discovered something that might just work. While watching a training video at work, I found there was a whole world of music videos on YouTube. *(It was later I realized that God had led me to this discovery.)* If I could play the music videos through the church projection/sound system, it would solve this praise music problem.

I again turned to God in prayer. He had provided me the tools, but I had doubts: would the congregation accept a new format and could I sustain a weekly service. I promised God I would try, but I couldn't do it without His help and I would also need physical help. My wife, Patti, willingly offered to run the videos from the sound booth, and project the slides each week. Again, God answered my prayers. **I told God I would step out in faith** and trust that He would help me. I agreed to lead the service on a trial basis when asked by the church leadership team.

God did indeed help. ***Luke 11:9-10 (CEV):*** *⁹"So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks."* Each week, He leads me in selecting the scriptures, prayers, stories, and especially the music for the service while our faithful lay speakers provide the messages. This small group of worshippers not only accepted the new format but has spread the word about the service. More and more new faces are appearing and becoming regular attendees. It has been over three years now, and God has never failed.