



God-Stories

evidence of God at work
in and around us

“Foolish” Prayers

Joan Lisle, a Calvary Table family member seeking to live a life without walls with God (C-WoW).

The faith story I want to share is not about faith when I had to believe God for something I wanted, but rather, faith to follow Him when it seemed like foolishness to me.

My story begins with me winning a small teddy bear from a fish bowl business card drawing at a work-related conference. I took the teddy bear home and one night, in the middle of the night, I felt inclined to grab this teddy bear as I went out to my living room to pray. I sat in a rocking chair and just prayed, not knowing who I was praying for, and not really understanding all that I was praying. This went on for two and a half years. Not every night, mind you, just occasionally throughout the span of a couple years.

One day as I was preparing to leave for a week-long, church-related conference, I asked the Lord if there was anything else I needed to take. I'm not sure why I asked Him that; I wasn't really in the habit of asking Him such things. But I had the distinct impression that I was to take the teddy bear.

The teddy bear sat in my car for several days. In the middle of the week, I saw a mom and daughter in the bookstore of the campus where the conference was held. The daughter,

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about 4 years old, wanted something and the mom said no. The daughter was crying and fussing. I remember saying a prayer for them and went on my way.

Later that day sitting by a creek in quiet time with the Lord, the mom and daughter came back to my mind, and, soon afterward, the teddy bear came to mind. All of a sudden, I understood in my spirit that this little girl was the one to give the teddy bear to. (My mind had been a little slower to catch on.)

*“faith...
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I started carrying the teddy bear with me in a canvas bag, sure that I would run into them. For two days I did not see these folks anywhere, and the conference was not that big.

One night, when a special dinner was prepared, I was seated at a table in the dining room with friends. Soon, I saw them. The family (mom, dad, son and daughter) sat at the table right next to us! I knew in my spirit that this was the time! My thoughts were a bit more hesitant. I was thinking of all the reasons why this was utterly foolish, but the ‘knowing’ that it was time was stronger than the doubts so I walked to their table.

I shared with the mom how I had seen them in the bookstore, explained briefly about praying over this teddy bear the last 2 1/2 years and that I felt it was for her daughter.

Amazingly, she did not think I was crazy and was happy for me to give the teddy bear to her daughter, Anna.



Anna clutched that teddy bear and would not let it go, even when she went up to the salad bar with her tray.

Anna's mom told me how they had adopted Anna recently from a foreign country and that Anna was the perfect addition to their family, which included their biological son. However, she admitted that there were times that she just did not know how to meet Anna's needs, while it seemed to come so naturally with her son. She felt the prayed-over teddy bear given to Anna was the Lord letting her know that He was taking care of Anna and that she (the mom) could rest in that knowledge.

When I left the dinner that night, I realized that I had been praying for little Anna most of her young life. I often think of how God blessed her with what she wanted, but that He had provided it in His timing. It was the stuffed animal of His choosing, not hers.

He blessed Anna's mom to know she was not alone in caring for her very special, chosen daughter.

He blessed me to know that even if He asks me to do something that seems foolish, He has a reason for it and I can trust Him and follow Him, leaving the details up to Him.

I see how He loves His children so much, and what trouble He will go to in order to bless each one of them. He prepares just the right gift and gives it to them at just the right time.

By the way, the teddy bear that I won was a Children's Miracle Network teddy bear.

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