

This testimony is in two parts. Please read both.

This first part is the Christmas letter from December 2009 -----

Hello Family and Friends!

I hope you are all doing well. The kids and I are doing great under the circumstances. My husband filed for divorce in early June, after I asked him for a temporary separation. Things had escalated to a point where I feared for my physical safety. I am sorry if this comes as a shock to some of you; I will try to do a better job of keeping in touch.

Going through this divorce has been one of the hardest things I have faced in my life. At the same time, it has been a blessing. I wouldn't have the faith that I have today if it were not for my failing marriage and my husband filing for divorce. I thank God every day for the work He is doing in my life. The last several months have been a time of emotional, physical and spiritual healing for the kids and me.

My favorite Bible verse right now is Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

God has been so faithful and I feel his hand guiding me constantly. He has proven Himself to be trustworthy. I'm actually at a good place in my life right now because when I go home at the end of the day, I feel safe, I feel at peace, I am free to be me, I am free to love God and I am free to share my faith with my children. God is good!

I have been living with my parents since I asked for the temporary separation and I plan to stay there with the kids until the divorce is final and my name is no longer on the house loan. We are very comfortable living with my parents and have everything we need. Plus, the price is right!

The good news is I have primary physical custody of the kids. They are with my husband on Tuesday nights and every other weekend and they are with me the rest of the time. We have divided up our personal property and my stuff is in storage. I didn't take much. All I really wanted were items with sentimental value - - photos, keepsakes, crafts, etc. Now, all that is left is the financial distribution. I really don't care about this part - - it's just money. All I have ever cared about is the kids and the parenting plan is secure! So, I am just going to let my attorney handle the rest and trust in God that He will take care of us. The divorce hearing is scheduled for January 7th.

As for the kids, they are adjusting well. My daughter is in Kindergarten this year and my son attends daycare three days a week. He is with Grandma the other two days.

I just wanted you all to know that I am thinking of you this holiday season and wishing you a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year. My Christmas prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to earth. May we not only celebrate His birth in the manger, but also the reason for His coming -- His death on the cross. Thank You for providing eternal life for each person who will accept His free gift of salvation.

Father, we thank you for our family and friends. Life is not always easy for us, but we know that You are always with us. As Your Word says, You will never leave us nor forsake us. You are all we need and Your love sustains us. Please help us to be mindful of Your constant presence this Christmas season.

Lord, we pray for peace, healing, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, and love for all our dear friends and family this holiday season an throughout the new year.

In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

This second part is a follow-up email 3 ½ months later -----

Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 9:51 AM

At lot has happened since December. If you read the Christmas letter, you know that my husband filed for divorce last June. However, in mid-January he changed his petition to a legal separation.

In mid-February we attended a marriage seminar and he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior.

He started counseling, going to church every Sunday with me and the kids, attending a marriage bible study, reading the Bible, and much more. It was a miracle.

However, this past weekend was the biggest miracle of all. I had already forgiven him, but could not bring myself to trust him. I know trust has to be earned and it takes time. I thought I was trusting in God to transform him, but I kept telling him there was no guarantee that we would ever reconcile.

This past weekend, we attended a "Weekend To Remember" conference in Lincoln, NE. All I can say is WOW! I recommend it to everyone who is married or thinking about getting married. At the conference, I realized I had not placed my full trust in God.

I felt convicted that I needed to decide if I was "all in" or "all out" - - no more sitting on the fence. Over the weekend, my husband and I made a commitment to stay together forever (the D word will no longer be a part of our vocabulary) and to place Christ at the center of our marriage.

As a result, he is planning to sell the old house and at some point in the future, we will buy a house together. However, we could sure use your prayers. We have been through a very dark season, but this Spring we will be celebrating not only the resurrection of Jesus, but the resurrection of our marriage and our family. Praise God!