



MY SALVATION STORY

BY SCOTT KIESLING

What did it take to bring you to the foot of the cross? Join Scott on his journey to discover God's amazing grace!



Restoration Church gathers as a community each Sunday morning for a time of teaching and worship. They endeavor to offer a warm and welcoming worship environment to Christians and non-Christians seeking answers to some of life's toughest questions.

I've been to church from time to time and it does nothing for me. Big ticket stuff like sin and shame, heaven and hell, floods and forty years lost in the woods. "Come on already, it's almost noon and the grass isn't going to mow itself." Besides I don't really sin and I'm not lost. I'm already a good guy. So Sunday morning is my time to sleep in. After all it's exhausting to live a blameless life.

My wife and I met when we were 17 and married when we were 23. She was a Christian long before we met. She would say things like "you should pray about that," or "I'd like to find a church home." What did she mean? I had never once prayed in my life and had I not provided her a good home?

We have two sons and I love them very much. However, fatherhood wasn't what I expected, and I just couldn't relate to

them. In fact, none of my relationships were satisfying.

Outwardly, my older son seemed to live a charmed life. With a loving and stable home, he was the only child for four grandparents, three uncles and two aunts to dote upon and spoil. Being handsome and smart, the world came to him. But all was not as smooth as it looked. He started showing small signs of anxiety at age five. The anxious moments would come and go, and we hoped he would grow out of these frightful occurrences. My wife and I tried but couldn't help our son. Counselors, doctors and physiologists efforts to help were also in vain.

The small signs of anxiety eventually turned into full out panic attacks. Trips to pediatricians, emergency rooms and missed school days were now the norm.

My wife would call me at work and I would rush home to some horrible situation. I was fighting to stay in control. She would cry and pray.

It was around this time that my wife reached out to a long-lost friend who she had trusted. Her friend had two sons close to our sons' age and a husband who was a pastor. They were part of a group "planting" an upstart gospel-preaching church called Restoration Church. Her advice was to pray and she invited my wife to Sunday service.

My wife started going to church and eventually I joined her. I didn't mind going although I felt uncomfortable, but the sermons brought my wife some peace. Soon we were asked to join a community group.

We were warmly welcomed and the

smaller setting felt more comfortable and realistic to me. I presumed that church-going people didn't have any real issues but in the group, people and their problems got real. For the first time in my life I could see practical application of Scripture to our lives.

The summer before my son's seventh grade year, panic and anxiety were back in full force. He missed the first month of classes and the tone of the school and district was now less about classes, grades, and attendance, and more about Child Protective Services, alternative schooling, and County intervention. The discussion was now about having our child sent away. I was furious and at the end of my rope.

We were only 48 hours away from an outcome none of us could live with, and no help in sight. A meeting was set with the school's principal and counselors to discuss our son's future. The night before this meeting, I felt like a failure as a father and the reality of losing control of my family was setting in. That night I did something I had never done before. I turned to God and prayed. I admitted my way hadn't worked. My family was in need of guidance that I couldn't provide. I recognized Jesus' sacrifice and thanked God for giving up His son for me. I asked for forgiveness, wisdom, and the words to speak in my son's best interest.

The meeting at the school did not start off well. Their plan for alternative schooling was rolled out, and the school was informing us of their decision. At that point I spoke up and suggested another plan that I had never given any thought to before that moment. It was in complete contradiction to the school and his doctor. I asked for a grace period and a different medical approach. The school and doctors agreed!

As my wife and I walked out of the school I spoke, "Where did those words come from?" She replied, "You know where they came from." I remembered

what I had prayed the night before. My first ever prayer had been answered! It was then I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

Things are going well with my son now and I am thankful that we are growing closer as father and son. My relationships all around are getting healthier. I had wandered lost in the woods for nearly 40 years. I drew up my own map, plotted my own course and that cost me dearly. It took desperation for me to turn to Christ for help. My walk with the Lord has only just begun but I cherish each step. God has ignited a fire in me that has cast His light upon every aspect of my new life. Now the grass can wait. I've got somewhere more important to be on a Sunday morning.

— NEWS BRIEF —

NEW KINGDOM COME WEBSITE

THECHAPEL.COM/KINGDOMCOME



You might have often wondered, "where can I find more information on Kingdom Come?" We receive questions each week

about upcoming ministry trips, who are our Ministry Partners, what's happening with Kingdom Come around the globe and how someone can become more involved with Kingdom Come.

The new Kingdom Come website is chock full of answers to these questions and more! You will be able to learn more about Kingdom Come and our partners with our from the field blog reports, *News* and *Resources* pages. Our *Prayer Wall* will help keep you in touch with prayer needs and *Did You Know* offers interesting facts in brief. Full issues of the *Kingdom Come Chronicles* and *On Mission* are available to read online or download. Sign up for the weekly email newsletter or subscribe via RSS so you won't miss the latest ministry updates. **The new website will launch Sunday, March 17—visit thechapel.com/kingdomcome and check it out!**

— LOCAL CONNECTION —

Interested in getting involved with one of our local ministry partners? Here are some places for you to start serving!

DESTINATION LIFE FELLOWSHIP

22nd Street & Linwood Ave
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
716.297.7799

LOCKPORT CARENET

229 East Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094
716.434.1771
lockportcarenet.com

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 1013
Williamsville, NY 14231
716.893.1840
sgmworld.org

XCEL LEADERSHIP CENTER

567 Hertel Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
716.819.4100 x295
therenovationchurch.com

KINGDOM COME

Kingdom Come is looking for individuals interested in helping with articles and proofreading for the *KC Chronicles* and *On Mission* magazine. Contact Amy at atartick@thechapel.com if you would like to help!

For a complete list of ministry partners, visit thechapel.com/KingdomCome.

The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

MARCH 29

GOOD FRIDAY TOGETHER

Good Friday Together is the gathering of the Church of WNY to worship and praise God for His sacrifice on the cross through His son, Jesus Christ. We will be meeting at the First Niagara Center where doors open at 5:30pm and the event starts at 7pm. Visit goodfridaytogether.com for details.

APRIL 20

BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE

Join City Vision for a day of inspiration, training and networking—a day of Building Bridges of Hope! Featured Speaker is Dr. Bob Lupton, author of Toxic Charity. Hosted by: Elizabeth Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio 41122. Costs and info can be found at CITY-VISION.ORG.