

## As You Go by Amy Chambliss



I began working at Chick-Fil-A (CFA) in Avon four years ago. During my training, I learned about the CFA Core 4 and 2nd Mile Service. The Core 4 is:

- make eye contact,
- share a smile,
- speak enthusiastically,
- and stay connected.

2nd mile service is going the extra mile and going beyond what is expected.

I completed the training, started working on the front line as a cashier. Doing 2nd mile service, I met many people who were regular guests at CFA. I learned their names and their life stories. I heard about their loved ones who were having health issues, or going through a difficult time. I asked if I could have a first name and pray for them. The answer was "Yes", and "Thank You". The names were written on a piece of register paper. I took the papers home and placed them in my Bible as a reminder to pray for a specific need. 2nd mile service felt very natural to me, as well as praying for people in need. After a while, guests would come in; order a meal; and ask me to pray for a friend or loved one.

One shift, I met a mother, Linda and her adult son, Jeff in the dining room. They traveled from the southern part of the state every six months to see an eye surgeon at IU Medical Center in Indianapolis. Jeff needed a double cornea transplant as he was going blind. I asked their permission to pray right then. They both agreed. We joined hands; and I prayed. Linda was crying after we said "Amen". We hugged before they left. I kept them in my daily prayers.

Six months later the two of them came into CFA after the doctor's appointment. They had driven out of their way to see me. Linda said the impact I made on them after praying was tremendous; and, they would be back to see me in the future. I was humbled and blown away at the same time!

One day they came in sooner than six months and told me a donor had been found. Jeff was having a double cornea transplant the next day. We prayed in the dining room for the surgery and also for the donor's family. The two of them came in days after the surgery; said all looked good; and they were heading home.

I had not seen Linda and Jeff for quite a while. One day I was on the front line talking to a co-worker, and I felt someone touch my hand. I looked up, saw a huge smile, and Jeff said "I can see!" I teared up, ran around the front counter and we hugged. We both praised God for this miracle in his life. I could not contain my happiness! Guests were staring at me like I had lost my mind and I didn't care. God had healed Jeff and I was going to give God all the honor and glory! I went back to work with thankfulness and joy in my heart..... and a big smile on my face!

Our God is amazing, awesome, and deserves all of our praise. I thank Him each day knowing his gentle hand is guiding me, as I go.

## As You Go by Gerald George



As I go through life, I usually try to reflect on how I came to be in this place in my life today. That reflection always leads me back to my faith and my life experiences.

I have spent the last 40 years of my life serving in the greatest career ever, being a firefighter. I have seen things most people would never want to see in their life time, but, God has been with me every step, allowing me to be there on someone's worse day of their life and to help them or their family members get the help they need, whatever that maybe.

I have served in three different communities during this 40 years, and I have also been all over the United States on man-made and natural disasters, helping others I will only see that one time in their life, but I am able to make an impact on their lives, while they are being impacted by life at the same time.

Specifically, I responded to the City of New York on 9/11 with 70 other members of Indiana Task Force One and another 20 Task Forces from around the United States, along with our counterparts from EMS, Police and military units. Then again in 2005 to New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina impacted that area. Then lastly to New Jersey and New York in 2013 for Hurricane Sandy.

During each of these disasters, all of these responders worked together, lived together and prayed together each day, while helping rescue and care for victims over the time each individual was deployed.

We would rescue those victims needing rescued, we would provide food, clothing and shelters for those in need, and we would take the time to get to know as many of those individuals as possible, and I saw many times where these responders and victims would take the time to pray together. To pray for each other, to pray for others, to pray for us as the first responders.

I truly believe that God, the Holy Spirit or both is with us all, every day, helping us not only through our own struggles, but also helping us help those individuals around us at different times in their lives.

I try to live my life and do things by asking, would I do that or say that in front of my mother, and also knowing that God is with us all the time and what would he think of me or my actions. So, it is easy to always do the right thing in your heart with your belief that God is always with you, in times that you need him and even in those times that you think you don't.

Just like the poem about the foot prints in the sand; sometimes he walks beside you, but sometimes he carries you!

Thank you, God Bless and remember God is with you As You Go!

## As You Go by Diane Buxton



### GOD USES OUR BROKENNESS FOR HIS GLORY.

In 2004 I joined a club that no parent wants to join. My oldest son was addicted to pills. He was hurt playing football and was prescribed pain pills. By the time the year 2008 came around, he was shooting up Heroin and continued using Heroin for another 4 years.

When we go through a trial, a lot of times the prayer is, why me? When I would wake up at 2 in the morning, crying, worrying, praying, that was my prayer," Why my son, Why me? SAVE MY SON!" When I would prostrate on the floor thinking if I prayed this way he would somehow hear me better. Same prayer," Why my son, Why me, SAVE MY SON!

This nightmare went on for 8 years. We went through eight different rehabs, inpatient, counseling, outpatient, took him to support groups. He spent Numerous times in Jail. Because of the nature of this disease, we were lied to and things would go missing in the house to sell to support his disease. For parents there is so much guilt. What did I do as a Mother to cause this? A lot of what if's, or I should have done? Add shame on top of all that and the stigma that society labels on families of those who have loved ones struggling with addiction, we feel Hopeless.

I felt so alone until one day I was talking with Jeanette. I had no idea Jeanette had been going through the same thing. Do you know how good it feels when you have kept that pain for so long and the freedom you feel when you first open up to someone not only understands but has lived the same journey. Jeanette was my rock during that time and still is.

A few weeks later, for the first time, I really felt a strong nudging from God that he wanted me to start a support group for parents. I asked Jeanette if she would be interested. Of course a "God wink" as Jeanette says, happened. Jeanette had that same nudging.

We researched and found "PAL" Parents of Addicted Loved Ones" out of Arizona. A faith based support group, Parents helping other parents. I called the founder, Mike Speakman. Told him we wanted to start a PAL group in Indiana. His reply "It's never been done but let's give it a try. "We were the first PAL group to start out of the state of Arizona. That was 4 years ago.

In that first year, we averaged 1-5 parents and some meetings it was just 1. We were not discouraged. We knew God wanted us to continue, we knew this was our mission.

Let's bring it to now. We have added Cindy, a wonderful facilitator to our Group. Now there are four PAL groups in Indiana, 17 States with PAL groups, one just started in Alaska. We now average 15-25 parents at our meeting.

God has blessed us with the most beautiful gift of all. Jeanette's and my son both are in long term recovery. What this means for Jeanette and me is to have joy back in our life. What the means for our sons is they are helping others. Mark has been in recovery for 5 years and is sponsoring and helping others. Taylor is 4 years in recovery and is also helping others.

Isn't that what this is about? God uses our brokenness for his glory. He has used Jeanette, myself, Mark and Taylor for our mission to help others going through what we know and understand.

If you ever feel that nudge from God, don't ignore it. Don't think, I could never do that.

When God sees you doing your part, developing what he has given you, then HE will do HIS part and open doors that no man can shut.(written by Laurie Cause)

I praise God that I went through those trials. I praise God my son is in Recovery. I am so humbled that he continues using Jeanette, me, Mark and Taylor through our brokenness as part of His Mission.

Thanks Be to my God!

