



Shiloh Messenger

July 2009

The Branch Of Goodness

Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! Psalms 31:19

God indeed works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His Purpose. (Romans 8:28) Last month I had an accident on a tractor while mowing with a brush-hog at my parents place. The lot I was mowing is part of their 30 acres. It was left un-attended after Hurricane Ike. Since the hurricane, it really has been quite busy for all of us. Never the less, I felt in my heart I had neglected my responsibility to clean up this section. Therefore I had made it a priority to get this lot mowed, and made the time on Saturday, May 30th. I remember the 45-minute drive to my parent's house as a worship filled time. As I drove I listened to a favorite worship CD and I was praising God for His goodness. When I arrived I observed what needed to be mowed & then asked God for wisdom & protection. This was not the first time for me to mow this field. I have been assisting in mowing the lot since 1985. But little did I know I was about to encounter a serious interruption. I have had experiences with potential dangers before, but nothing like what awaited me an hour into my work. I was making a pass between two trees when suddenly a two inch branch wrapped it self around the left rear tire. This branch then proceeded by whopping me in the head. Yet not finished, it then worked itself down & up under the tractor. It forcefully plunged into my left leg, ripping my flesh to the bone & twisting my ankle at the same time. This event was happening while the brush-hog on back of the tractor was mulching everything in its path. It was a perfect scenario by the enemy to bring about my demise. This branch, I truly believe was meant to knock me off the tractor & under the brush-hog. But God had sent Heavenly Host accompanying me to keep me on the tractor & safe. After the branch finished its trauma to my leg, I had the instinct to shut the mower down & turn off the ignition to the tractor. I examined my left leg & there was blood rapidly pulsating through my pant leg. I knew it was serious and thought an artery had been severed. I was about 100 yards from my parents house. I remember being told when you have a serious wound & bleeding not to panic, to remain calm. This proved to be challenging. After seeing the extent of the injury, I was greatly concerned that no one would hear me if I sat down & shouted for help. I sensed urgency & took off running, bleeding profusely, and yelling . Praise to God, my sister was outside in her garden (next to my parents house) and she heard my cries for help & came running. My sister & mom became extremely overwhelmed after seeing my injured leg and the amount of blood loss, as my shoe had fast filled with blood. My brother in law applied pressure to my wound until Paramedics arrived and I was taken by air ambulance to a hospital in Beaumont TX. This was just the beginning of my encounter with a serious injury & experiencing "God's goodness". As soon as my wife heard about my injury she immediately began praying and alerted others to intercede on my behalf. While in the ER, I was treated with pain medicine (morphine). I was thankful for the medicine that was relieving my pain, but at the same time I was being entertained with thoughts of old feelings toward my heroin addiction of the past. I quickly took those thoughts captive & into the obedience of Christ" (2 Corn. 10:3-5). I gave God praise! I thanked Him for His goodness & simply acknowledged His presence. My thoughts were then directed towards **Philippians 4:8 "Whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things"**. The doctor then began to give us his healing assessment (two months minimal). My wound was irrigated, sutured, and also a drainage tube inserted. I was referred to an orthopedic surgeon, due to the depth and severity of the wound. One week later I had surgery & was given special instructions on the care of the leg & foot. What was initiated to bring harm has become a testimony of God's intervention. The prognosis was turned around as my recovery has been speedily and divinely enhanced. What have I gleaned through all of this? There is not enough page to share all, but a few things I will mention. I have observed first hand Romans 8:28 springing into manifestation before my eyes. I have witnessed again the power of Intercession and might of agreement. I have experienced that the keeping of focus is truly spiritual warfare. Our adversary has plots to kill us at best, and if not wipe us out completely, to distract us in such a manner to render us ineffective from our destiny. God gave Deb and I opportunities to minister to other patients, & medical professionals. We decided to make it count. The branch that was sent to destroy me has become a branch of goodness. I want to thank everyone for your love, prayers & words of encouragement to Deb & I.

We love you!

Rocky Fondren

A Student Testifies

My name is **Jacob Gunter**, I am twenty years old and from Shreveport, Louisiana. Prior to coming to Shiloh Ministries I was caught up in a vicious cycle of drugs and alcohol that was leading me down a path of destruction. Throughout my life I always felt that I had emptiness in me and because of that feeling, I always tried to fill myself with something that wouldn't last. By the time I was 19 years old, I had been in secular rehabs, dropped out of school, was in & out of jail and had lost just about everything that was of value to me. I lost just about all my close friends and started being around people that were a bad influence on my life. And the trust I had with my family was lost and I thought "this is the way I'm always going to be." A week before coming to Shiloh, I overdosed on several prescription medications and ended up hospitalized in Intensive Care for a few days. Shortly after I was moved to a Detox center, where I had a decision placed before me. To go to jail or to get help. That's when I made the best decision of my life, and that was to go to Shiloh Ministries. When I first got to Shiloh, I thought "there is no way I am going to make it this whole year". But I completely surrendered my life to God and asked Him for the strength to get through the year. Well, The Lord has answered my prayer and now when I look back, this year has flown by. While at Shiloh God has done many great works in my life. He has allowed me to spend time learning His Word through our great teacher Brother David Walls. He has completely healed my relationship with my family and He has taught me the importance of prayer and a relationship with Him. I also received tutoring from Shiloh's GED Instructor, Mrs. Barbara Page. I will take my GED test this month and I am prepared to pass. While I was living in my addiction, I never thought that there was any way that I could ever be joyful and have a peace of mind while I was sober. Now I live everyday with "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding." (Philippians 4:7) I thank God everyday for ordering my steps to Shiloh Ministries because I know if He hadn't I would be dead or in prison right now. Finally, I would like to give thanks to Pastor Rocky & Sister Debbie for allowing me to enter in to such a mighty place to straighten my life up. Shiloh Ministries helped me fill that emptiness by pointing me to God.



Shiloh Ministries gives the LORD honor and praise for lives that have been delivered from a life of drug addiction. We celebrate Kingdom Life here at Shiloh. All of our supporters make a tremendous contribution towards lives that forever are destined for eternity with God. We ask and encourage everyone to give financially to help with the cost of restoring lives. The LORDS Ministry at Shiloh is free to the men who seek restoration. It is a walk of faith for our financial needs to be met every month. Would you please consider being a monthly supporter? God always speaks to those He has asked to give. We believe that His people will respond out of a heart of gratitude for what He has done & continues to do for them. Thank you, for your generosity in giving & co-laboring with us in the LORDS Ministry at Shiloh. (Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501C3 Charitable Organization)

***Prayer needs; Speakers (2) for Chapel
Sound System (Whooper). Projector &
screen for Chapel***

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***Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders of Shiloh Ministries***