

## Ken Johnson's Spiritual Journey

*One of the newest Elders in 2006, Ken has attended First Christian Church since November 2004 after receiving an invitation from close friend Larry Nielsen. Ken is married to Sharon and lives in Dillsboro, Indiana; between the two of them have three daughters Shawn, Kellie and Channing and six grandchildren. Ken was a life and business coach and led personal development seminars and specialized in teambuilding events., with over twenty-seven years of practical experience in both management and team building. In 2004, he got out of the race for awhile, to help his wife start her Medical Massage Therapy business and he began working at Home Depot in Pro Sales and Team Development. February 2006, he was diagnosed with Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma and spent ten months in the battle to defeat Cancer. Through God's will and guiding hand, a wonderful team of Doctors and Care Givers helped him become one of God's miracle survivors. He is involved with the Healing Ministry, Worship Praise Team, Jail Ministry and co-leads a Men's Life Group. He has served on the Southeastern Emmaus Community Board for the last five years. He focuses on continuing growth as a Christian and Life Partner, Servant Leader, Father and Grandfather. Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 40:31*



My sister and I were blessed when my stepfather, Claude Bunch, was brought into our lives. We were very young and he took being our father very seriously. He was an alcoholic and stopped drinking and was a wild spirit and decided it was not the way of life for a family man.

Our life in church began very young, and we attended the Church of God. I often joke that I am here today due to drugs...my daddy drug me to church on Sunday morning, he drug me to church Sunday evening and he drug me to church just about any other time the doors were open.

As youngsters, we moved to many states and attended many schools and churches. My father was one of the first experiments with the veterans hospitals and their climate control drugs for emphysema. Many times we would not get to stay in an area long at all due to the adverse impact on my father. I remember going to church and having a remarkable time, from the singing to the fire-and-brimstone preaching. At the age of nine, at my first church camp, I felt the pull of God on my heart and soul and gave my life to Christ, then later was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. My first girlfriend was from church, my first horseback ride and my first hayride were at a church function. I was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout at church.

As my father's illness grew worse, he and I began to visit many other types of churches. My father was seeking out faith healers. What I carry from that time was that he sat me down and told me that due to being in lots of churches, my faith could be challenged by what I saw and for me to remember that my faith should be in God and not in man and that I should not let anything affect my faith in God. A few weeks before my father died, he told me that the Lord had spoken to him and told him it was time, and that he was at peace with it. I wasn't. I turned from God and through the next 15 years thought I was enjoying life and career success.

In 1986, I was involved in an auto accident that should have killed me. I did not return to God. In 1987, my daughter Channing was born and I thought I had it all. Then in 1988 I was in another accident. That time a tractor-trailer dragged my little sports car until it was nothing but a shell wrapped around me. The doctors thought that I would not walk again. They were wrong. I still did not return to God.

Finally while holding my twin babies, Hunter and Cheyenne, as they breathed their last breaths, God led me back and kept me from losing my mind through an awesome church family. A year later I went on a Walk To Emmaus, and He showed me real peace. Two years later my marriage ended with my wife never able to recover from the loss of our children. After having three broken marriages, God began teaching me the meaning of true love and what He meant when He told us that we should count on Him, and He would lead us through anything, and He did.

I prayed for direction, and the Lord began to bless me in so many areas; things like putting Sharon in my life-- a truly faithful woman of God who has a tremendous heart and the most loving nature, who now is my wife. He began leading us to places in ministry like teaching Sunday school, working the Emmaus walks and Residents Encountering Christ prison walks. Then He brought us to FCC and allowed me to get involved in the Worship Praise Team, and the Prison Ministry and led us to amazing Life Groups. Now I am serving as an Elder.

My whole point is, life is very tough on all of us. The fair part to me is that life is unfair to us all sometime in our journey. You see, the only real thing here on earth is our relationship with Christ. All of the other stuff is simply about how we learn to trust him, daily, hourly, in every minute.

In February 2006, I was diagnosed with Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma and spent ten months in the battle to defeat cancer. Through God's healing and guiding hand, many, many praying friends, and a wonderful team of doctors and caregivers, I am one of God's miracle survivors. I don't tell you this to bring glory for myself, but to illustrate just how faithful and merciful our God is, how patient His love is and how awesome His grace is, no matter what.