

## Scott Holland's Spiritual Journey

*An Elder since 2004, Scott grew up in the south, moved to the Midwest and the Harrison area where a yellow pages ad led his family to visit and begin attending First Christian Church in 1998. Scott and wife Tina live in Harrison and have four children and one grandchild: Brad, his wife Jami and daughter Hallie, Stacey, Mark, and Sydney. Scott graduated in May 2007 from Cincinnati Christian University with two Master's Degrees, in Divinity and Counseling. Scott plans to work full time in a ministry capacity. His interests include travel, NFL football, and listening to music. He has served in various ministries including Life Group coach and leader, Praise Team, ALPHA team, Servant Heart, Care Team, Diaconate, Board Member, Discipleship Team, Upward, Vacation Bible School and Emmaus Team. Favorite Scripture: Proverbs 3: 5-6.*



Hi, my name is Scott Holland. I was born May 18, 1962, in Gainesboro, Tennessee. I spent my early years growing up in the south: Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky. By my third grade year, my family settled in Milton, Indiana, where we remained through my graduation from high school. At twelve, I received Christ and was baptized. I recall the event as a great weight being lifted off of me.

Unfortunately, I did not understand at the time that the true gift God offered me was a personal relationship with Him. I continued to live as though I had never known Christ throughout my young adult life.

Instead of making friends with other Christians, I chose to live the popular "party" lifestyle. I did not want to appear different from my friends. Since I had very little of God's word inside of me, Satan was able to influence me through peer pressure and wrong thoughts. My friends were not bad people, but the general consensus in our crowd was that Christians were gullible, weak, simple-minded people brainwashed into believing a fantasy. Inside I knew I needed God, but the fear of looking foolish to my friends was overpowering.

My lifestyle remained unchanged during my twenties and I continued to distance myself from God. In the 1980's I attended college in Arkansas, did a tour in the U.S. Cavalry in Texas, attended college near Chicago and even moved to Maine and worked for a year. None of this changed the destructive lifestyle I was living.

In 1989, I moved back to Indiana and accepted an iron pouring position in Harrison. It was during this time that I met my wife-to-be, Tina. We began dating in May of 1990 and were married on November 14, 1992. We built a house in Harrison and together we lived the partying lifestyle. I began to move up the career ladder at work and realized the need to finish my college education. In 1993, I took over the third-shift molding and pouring operation at the foundry and attended Xavier University during the day. I finally received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in December of 1996. (Warning: It takes sixteen years and several universities to finish a bachelor's degree on the Party Lifestyle Plan.)

Tina and I were struggling in our marriage and life was not at all satisfying. I was promoted at work and moved back to first shift. We thought this would fix all of our marital problems. It made them worse. In late 1997, when Tina was ready to get a lawyer and divorce me, I was in my basement bargaining with God about what I would do for Him when He stopped the divorce. During one of my better offers to God, I was overcome by His presence, and it became very clear to me that God knew I had no intention of keeping any of the commitments I was making. The truth cut through everything. I said, "God, you know that's a lie don't you?"

The silence was deafening. Being in the presence of God demands the total absence of insincerity. I fell to my knees and asked God to forgive my sins for the first time in over twenty years. God's love overwhelmed me and I knew that he wanted the best for me. I didn't care what my friends were going to think. I didn't care what anybody thought. I just knew I had to get to know this God person and right away.

I wasn't sure if Tina would still divorce me or not, but somehow I knew that no matter what the outcome, God's being a part of it would make it all right. I ran up the steps to the kitchen and said, "Tina, I just met God in the basement, and everything is going to be okay." She thought I had lost my mind.

We began attending church and were led by the Holy Spirit to First Christian Church, where I discovered that God really did want to develop a relationship with me. Imagine that. We joined a Life Group and started to read God's Word. I became a part of the stewardship team at church and grew in my relationship with God.

In the fall of 1999, I went on a three-day retreat called, "The Walk to Emmaus." I never knew just how much God loved me before that weekend, and I will never be the same again now that I know.

At church, I became a member of the Diaconate and was on the Board of Directors. I was active in the Care Team Ministry for greeting and follow-up with visitors at our church. I attended the Alpha Course and then became a leader in a weekly Life Group. I began working "Walk to Emmaus" retreats as a table leader and became a small group leader on the Alpha Course. I just couldn't get enough.

At work I was promoted to Foundry Manager, and my relationship with Tina had never been better. By 2001, I had become comfortable in this lifestyle, when I began to hear God calling me to leave the foundry. I did not realize at the time that He was calling me into full-time ministry, but I knew He wanted me to leave. It didn't make sense to me to quit a perfectly good job. After all, how would I take care of my family? I was promoted to Quality Manager at the foundry in 2002, and yet I continued to feel the gentle push to leave the foundry. I discussed this with Christian friends and prayed and still felt that it didn't make sense for me to quit a perfectly good job.

I discovered that once again it was fear that held me back and kept me from leaving the foundry. I'm forty-three years old now; you'd think I wouldn't fall for Satan's scare tactics anymore. Thank God that Satan's schemes grow weaker as I grow stronger in my relationship with God. He had finally moved me far enough along in spiritual maturity that I left my perfectly good job with the faith that God would take care of my family and me.

I am now actively pursuing full-time ministry. I do not have a clear understanding yet of where He will have me serve. It is enough for me to trust that God is in control and to answer His call. I am currently working on a Master of Divinity degree at Cincinnati Christian University. God is currently taking care of my family and me just fine, and in the most amazing ways I might add. I've learned that if you really want to experience life out on the edge, just let God take over and hang on, because things start getting really interesting from then on.