

TESTIMONY – Short Version

Christians in general use the term "testify" or "to give your testimony" to mean "the story of how you became a Christian or it may refer to a specific event in a Christian's life in which God has done something deemed particularly worth sharing.

You have often heard, What is the "meaning of life"? God has given me the answer and the answer is "LOVE". For God so loved the world... John 3:16. For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit describe true Love. (*Galatians 5:22-25*) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. {24} And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* The first fruit of the Spirit is Love and all of the other fruits are characteristics of Love.

This report consists of two parts: **History** and **Lessons Learned**. The **History** part primarily starts from my stroke to when I whet home. Many thanks to all the people, you know who you are, that visited me and prayed for me to be an "Over Comer" during this ordeal. The **Lessons Learned** part is on-going. The first and foremost part is to be obedient to God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

We can justify any response in our own reasoning. This is wrong! Lean not to our own understanding but God's understanding.

King David killed a man to get his wife. God said that King David was a man after His heart. How? Why? Because God judges the heart rather than our actions.

History

- **August 2007 - I was laid off from Computer Associates.**

This started my journey.

Life is not about the destination; it's about how we live all along the way. It's easy to become so goal oriented and focused on our dreams and the big life events that we overlook the simple things that we should be enjoying. Don't make the mistake of just living for the destination to where your life goes by in a blur because life is short; we're here for a moment then we're gone. Take time to smell the roses. Appreciate the people in your life. Enjoy your spouse and children. As you make the decision to slow down and enjoy the journey, you will experience the fullness of what God has in store. When you come to the end of your life, you'll have no regrets. You will have made the most of your life and will finish your course with joy.

- **October 2007 – I paid-off my house.**

I had several Brokers say I should invest in the Stock Market. Only one Broker said I should pay-off the house. Some friends stated that I should pay-off the house. The Bible says to owe no man anything but Love.

If you are over 55 and get laid off there is no tax penalty for cashing out your 401K.

In about twelve months, the Stock Market crashed (October 2008). I would have lost most of my 401K if I had invested in the Stock Market.

- **April 29, 2008 – I had a stroke.**

I had my first stroke on April 28, 2008. 15 minutes later I would be on the highway going 70 miles per hour, going to play golf. Looking back I see that God was in control!

Nothing is Impossible with God but All things are Possible to them that Believe! - Matthew 19:26

This is the testimony of the miracles God has performed in my husband, Mike. "He is the Resurrection and the Life"

I would like to share this story about my husband, my best friend for 38 years! My life-long partner had a massive stroke on April 29, 2008. He suddenly was unable to stand or walk but managed to crawl to the bed and lay down. I called 911 and he was taken to the hospital. While in ICU the next morning Mike stopped breathing and was put on a ventilator. Mike was rushed off for brain surgery and I was told he probably would not make it through because he would probably bleed to death. God spoke to me, "Now is the time to believe Me for the impossible" .So, our family and church friends all gathered to pray and believe God for the impossible. The doctor removed part of the cerebellum (the stroke had damaged the cerebellum and was putting pressure on the brain stem) They called it a hemorrhagic infarct. And God did the impossible! Mike made it through surgery!

Mike has had many mountains to face (obstacles to overcome) But, God is a mountain moving God! Mike did not say a word for 4 months—he now talks non-stop! He was not able to open his mouth or swallow—he now is eating food! He was not able to move his body, totally bed-ridden for 8 months--he has had acceleration of movement in all areas of his body and is currently on his way to full recovery. He is now beginning to walk with the use of a walker! Mike is home and enjoying getting stronger. As Mike does his part, God shows Himself mighty on his behalf! Mike loves sharing with anyone who will listen now, "Just how important IT IS TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD AND DO WHAT HE SAYS!".

- **May 2008 to present – Many thanks to the family members and friends that visited me and prayed for me while I have been in the Hospital(s), Nursing Homes(s) and at home.**
- **May 2008 to present – Many thanks to Marilyn for visiting me and praying for me while I have been in the Hospital(s), Nursing Homes(s) and at home. She only missed two days in eleven months! That is dedication.**
- **May 2008 to present – you may visit caringbridge.org/visit/mikedorough for detail information about the stroke.**
- **May 2008 to present – you may visit my website at www.mikedorough.net to see my picture, access link to Caring Bridge, and get information about myself.**

Note, no spaces between mike and dorough at my website or Caring Bridge.

- **May 2008 - While leaving the hospital one day God spoke to our grandson, Braydon, and he said "I need to pray for Grandpa". Normally children are not allowed in ICU but Braydon was allowed in that day. After praying, Braydon said, "tomorrow Grandpa will open his eyes". Sure enough, the next day I opened my eyes. God gave my family a sign!**
- **May 2008 to September 2008 – I was more in than out of hospitals. I started at Good Samaritan, then moved to Rehab Center, moved to Acute Rehabilitation, moved to Select, moved to Chandler Regional, and then moved to Kindred.**

- **August 2008 to October 2008 – I was in two houses owned by Assisted Living. I was out of the two houses, in the Hospitals more than the nursing homes.**

I was still bed ridden and being feed through the tubs.

- **November 2008 to March 2009 – I attended La Estancia nursing home.**

I started eating with Marilyn's help. The feeding tube was in me. The nursing home was five minutes from the house. I had a private room but suppose to have a semi private room.

- **November 25, 2008 – I came home for Thanksgiving. This was great.**

I ate and ate real food, this was great! Marilyn provide for me. The feeding tube was still in me, but I used it less and less.

- **December 24, 2008 – I came home for Christmas Eve. This was great.**

It was the same as Thanksgiving 2008.

- **March 26, 2009 – I came home to live. It is good to be back at one's bed! 11 months and I made it back home. It took longer than expected.**

All tubes have been removed! I was eating real food but still needed Marilyn's help to perform daily shores (going to the bathroom, showers, etc.).

- **November 25, 2009 – My kids and grandkids had Thanksgiving at my house.**
- **December 25, 2009 – I had Christmas Day at the Pastori's. What a great day.**
- **Present – I had PT, OT, and Speech Therapy at the many Hospitals, La Estancia, and since I have been living at home. Most recently I have PT and OT at Spooner and Speech at Chandler Regional. I'm currently enjoying therapy at home. I have ordered an exercise (arms and legs) machine and stepper to have at home.**
- **January 2010 to present.**

I have been going to the bathroom by myself but still need Marilyn to give me showers. I eat by myself and go out to eat several times per week. I exercise at home now. I stood up in Church (April 18, 2010) for the first time for several minutes.

Lessons Learned

The following is what I have learned so far. The first and foremost part is to be obedient to God's Word and the Holy Spirit. In being a Christian does not mean there are no consequences to our actions (good or bad). Being led by the Holy Spirit and by reading and doing the actions in the Holy Bible will prevent problems in our life. Our focus is doing the things that will help save souls (led by the Holy Spirit) and vote like Christians/Americans. In the long run "souls" are all that counts.

After the stroke, I have sent several emails that deal with God's Word, the Human Heart, and Bible Prophecy. I hope these emails have been a blessing. Emails range from one half to four pages in length. Emails may or may not overlap in content. Emails to date are: Age, America, Believe, Change an Ongoing Process, Change and

Faith Builders, Christians, Christmas Gift, Czars, Enjoy the Journey, Forefathers, God, He wants you to be obedient not perfect!, Healing, Hearing, Heaven, Holy Spirit, Jesus, Last Days, Let Go and Let God, Love, Mountain, Nations, New World Order, Obama, Pentecost, Rain, Salvation, Smithsonian, The Difference Between Grace and Faith, Thomas Jefferson, Tolerance, Tribulation, Truth, You Already Got It and Why.

Prayer is more important than you think. He (God) makes the *best* out of our *mess*.

The following is an example of payer. For a hunter, all the excitement is over once the animal has been located. Then the work begins. I was walking back to the truck when my heart started beating very fast. I started to feel very tired so I decided to sit down and rest. I was hunting at 7,800 feet. I was walking slightly down hill when this condition with my heart started. I made it to approximately 100 yards short of the road when I could not go any further. I rested for about 45 minutes and my heart continued to beat very fast. I decide I had to make it to the road. If the worst happened, I need to be found. By the time I made it to the road my heart was beating faster than ever. I started to get very warm followed by cold flashes. Laying down I looked towards the sky. I could see the beauty of God's handy-work. The trees and the clouds were very peaceful to watch. I decided to pray for God's intervention. As I prayed, I could feel warmth starting from my right to left side of the body. A few seconds after I prayed my heart returned to a normal pace. I got up and walked to the truck. I returned to camp and told Marilyn (my wife) and Michael (my son) what happened. After a quick breakfast, we loaded up Michael's quad (4 wheel ATV) and started back to retrieve the animal.

Other thoughts

There is a **sender** (God by His Word & Holy Spirit through Grace), **receiver** (us through Faith), and **deceiver** (Satan through deceiving us by *twisting* the Truth).

We can either accept God's Word or lean unto our on understanding or man's understanding.

God is limited only by His Word. Don't put God in a box. His ways are higher than our ways.

God has done His part by giving His Son, Jesus. His grace has provided everything through the sacrifice of Jesus. This is nearly too good to be true because there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it and nothing we can do to lose it. Our part is simple: We respond to His grace by faith and appropriate what has already been accomplished.

Glory is the goodness of God. God is Love. God has given us all things by Grace (undeserved favor). Faith simply appropriates what God has already proved by Grace. God's Glory trumps the natural. Be kinder than necessary, every one you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Mike