

Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace!

My name is Sigrid Goff. I live in Bowie, Maryland, which is located about 20 minutes from Washington, D.C. The key verse for my mission report is Luke 8:48, "Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." Jesus said this to a woman who had been sick with an incurable condition for a long time. When she touched the hem of his cloak by faith, power went out from Jesus and healed her. The purpose of my report is to show how Jesus is still healing people in many ways today if we establish a relationship with him. I will do this by sharing the work of God in my life and in the congregations to which I belong.

In my childhood, I experienced neglect and abuse, which caused me to become depressed and mentally unstable. I thought of myself as a worthless person who did not deserve to be treated well. As a result of my low opinion of myself, I developed a victim mentality, relationship problems and learning disabilities in high school and college although I was a smart girl. At the age of five or six, I heard the name of Jesus for the first time, when a girl about my age invited me to come to church with her by simply saying, Come, and you will see. The following Sunday I went with her and accepted Jesus as my Savior. This decision made me the first Christian in my family.

Later at the University of Cologne, I met Maria Kwon and studied the Bible with her. I learned the importance of Bible study, prayer and sharing one's faith. Bible study started the healing process in me. My hopelessness went away. I felt peace and joy and studied the Bible with many students.

My new hope also helped me in my school studies. I received a scholarship to the University of Maryland. Eventually, I graduated with honors and became a teacher and librarian. I am now working at a high school that about 2000 students attend. I thank God for the friendships with coworkers that I developed there. I especially thank God for the Bible club that is led by students. It grew from about forty students to sixty. On special occasions, over a hundred students participated. I am thankful that I had an opportunity to share a testimony at one of their meetings.

My relationship with my parents improved too. When they visited me and attended a play titled Noah, they could clearly see the consequences of a life of unbelief. Those who did not accept God's word perished in a great flood that covered the whole earth. Those who believed in God's word and demonstrated it by their actions, that is, Noah and his family, were saved. Noah touched my parents' heart and helped them to believe in God.

However, just like everybody else's life, a Christian life is also full of problems and sometimes tragedies. When I started my own family with Allen Goff, it turned out to be even more dysfunctional than the family in which I had grown up. The situation became even worse when my children Jeremy and John were born prematurely and grew up to become people with disabilities. Their treatment cost about 2 ½ million

dollars. It took two insurance companies and our hard work for 18 years to pay off this debt.

I believe that God will heal my children. I know with absolute certainty that Jeremy will be healed at God's right time because God told me so. In the meantime, we are suffering. But all our sufferings have meaning. The apostle Peter said In 1 Peter 1: 6-7, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed (NIV).

Just as Jesus healed the woman with a humanly incurable bleeding problem, Jesus still heals people today. I experienced this in my Bible study group at one of the churches I attend. A young woman named Sherrie had had skin cancer for three years. She spent a lot of money on doctors and torturous treatments, but nothing helped. Her skin kept falling off her body so that she sometimes collected cups full of skin.

Our Bible study group kept praying for her. In December of last year, she went to bed sick with cancer as usual. However, the next morning, she woke up healthy. She went to see her doctor who was greatly amazed and could offer no explanation for this instantaneous healing. When she came to our Bible study group the next Sunday, she was overjoyed. Her skin glowed with health.

Another example of healing is Jeffrey. He is in Allen Goff's Bible study group. As a result of a severe car accident, Jeffrey lay in a coma for about two months. His doctors expected him to die. However, God was not done with Jeffrey. He woke him up from his coma and helped him realize that there is more to life than work and fun.

Jeffrey started to study the Bible and accepted Jesus as his Savior and Lord. Now he is full of zeal for God's work. At church, he is an enthusiastic usher and helper with the homeless ministry. It seems that he is at church whenever the doors are open. Praise God who still heals people and gives us new and everlasting life.

I don't seem to do much in God's work. I pray and study the Bible. For several years, I have been reading through the Bible from Genesis through Revelation. On Sunday afternoon, I go on a prayer walk with Allen, Jeffrey, Jeremy, John, and other church members in my hometown of Bowie. We pray for our neighborhood and sometimes we pray with people who we meet if they are willing.

I thank God for healing me from my victim mentality although more work needs to be done in this respect. I thank God for keeping me physically healthy. I thank God for healing Sherrie and Jeffrey and for promising to heal Jeremy and John. It is my prayer that God will bring spiritual revival and healing to the United States and to Germany.

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