

## Baptism Testimony-Lori Oehlhof

I don't remember a time I didn't have Jesus in my heart. I accepted Christ as my savior at very young age. I am grateful for the foundation that was laid during my childhood, but didn't really understand what it meant to have a daily walk with Jesus and to truly make these beliefs my own until I was an adult. My actions showed my childish ways as I was still trying to save myself through good works.

As an adult, I began to encounter difficult situations beyond MY control. It was then I recognized that my relationship with Christ was more than just a decision to have a personal savior but that I needed a daily walk with Him. I knew, in my mind, I could lay down my burdens at his feet and count on his faithfulness because God loved me and had a plan for my life. But I still wanted to be self-reliant and was so resistant & doubtful of God

Ryan and I were married in 2000 and struggled with infertility the first few years of our marriage. My initial reaction was to be angry and bitter. But after going through it, I could see God was drawing me closer to him, because he had a better plan for our marriage. He was preparing our marriage spiritually and financially for children. He was teaching me patience, as I still felt the need to control. I have learned God's ways are superior, and trust him from the beginning.

As our family grew, God gave us our second son, Jackson. At 15 months we would learn of his congenital short femur. God was calling me to look to him for the answers and put our faith in him and not myself. God has given us Jackson for a special reason, and I believe it was to make me completely trust him throughout his entire leg lengthening process. It is when we are on our knees in despair, that we can completely see the glory of our healing savior. Even though we had a few extra hiccups in the road, God always provided everything we needed. And as we left the UW Hospital late last fall, Ryan said "Here's to no more hiccups in the road" Jackson responded, "Dad, What's wrong with hiccups, everyone has hiccups?" And he's right, everyone has hiccups and it was because we had the loving protection of our Savior's salvation walking along side us, we could celebrate the journey.

***I have learned to rely on Romans 5:3-5, 8   <sup>3</sup>We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup>And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup>And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.; <sup>8</sup>But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.***

Earlier this year God spoke to my heart about adoption and our family is moving forward to bring our fourth child HuaHua (a sister for Jordan) home to our family. And it is because of our trials, we have been led to a child with a special heart condition. We will be faithful and trust God completely in this decision for HE already knows the plans for our little girl.

I feel it important to be baptized today as a symbolic representation of my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. As a child I saw him as my ticket to heaven, but today I see him as Lord over all of my life.