

## 11. Amazing Grace: My Story

My story is about the wonderful answer to the prayers of my mother and father. My testimony is like a voice from the grave of sin. Jesus, by His amazing grace, raised me up spiritually and gave me new spiritual life.

1. What does the Lord promise with regard to our children? "I will \_\_\_\_\_ with him that \_\_\_\_\_ with thee and I will \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_." Isa 49:24-25 (707)

### **Outline of Stephen Cook's early experience**

**1950.** I was born in Ketchikan, Alaska into a family of Christian Sabbath-keepers who believed in the second coming of Jesus.

**1956.** Our family moved to Grants Pass, Oregon and I shortly entered a Christian school.

**1962.** Our home burned to the ground and we lost virtually everything including the family dog.

--. Later that same year my brother Richard died as the result of a swimming accident. Through it all my parents did not lose their faith and our church family was a tremendous support.

**1963.** Became interested in music and began to play the drums.

**1964.** Music continued to take hold of my mind through rock and roll. That same year I went away to Christian boarding academy. My new friends were not a good influence on me nor I on them. I was disciplined by the school for my attitude of rebellion. But I refused to surrender to the Spirit of God.

**1966.** I entered public high school and got on the honor roll (mostly because I wanted to grow my hair long).

**1968.** I stopped attending church (I had ceased to regard religion for some time but now I asserted my independence from my parents). Later that year I entered college and my bad habits and un-Christian associations only grew worse. But later, through my friendship with a girl, the Lord was able to get my attention.

**1970.** My 'girlfriend' dropped me suddenly and I seemed to be adrift. In the fall of the year I went to see a film about the Woodstock rock festival. During that movie the Holy Spirit spoke to me and the eyes of my understanding were suddenly opened as they hadn't been in years. I returned to my apartment and began to think about what it would be like to turn my life completely over to God. Miraculously, I did it! Jesus helped me to give up my bad habits and bad associations and go home to my parents and return to church and a life of service that has since led me all over the world

**2008.** By God's grace I am still telling my story and seeking to lead people to know His love and will for them.

## 11. Amazing Grace: My Story – page two

2. How is the Lord praised by one who had fallen so low? “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners of whom I am \_\_\_\_\_...Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for ever and ever. Amen.”  
1 Tim 1:15, 17 (1140)

### **Words of hope for those with loved ones who need Jesus...**

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border. Jeremiah 31:15-17 (763)

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.  
Luke 15:17-24 (1012)

For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day....I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick... Ezekiel 34:11-16 KJV (838)

**My Decision: \_\_\_\_\_ I give my heart to Christ and I pray that my loved ones will be ready when He comes.**