



CPC Member Profile

Chuck Hofvander

I had a stroke in March of 2004 that left me paralyzed on my right side and with aphasia.

I had been happy and healthy in my personal life and a success in my business life as well. I had a wife, two kids, and a house in the suburbs. In my business life, I started out as a clerk and worked my way up to become a corporate executive. For exercise I rode a bicycle an average of 2,500 miles a year and loved it.

I was a Presbyterian in my youth but over the years I lost interest in going to church but now with my stroke I questioned if there was a God. My wife questioned it to. Liz was diagnosed with breast cancer three months after my stroke. My sons have their physical problems as well. If there was a God how could he do this to our family?

Eight months after the stroke I had a seizure. It was late in the day, around five o'clock, and I lost control of my body. My wife called the ambulance and I was taken to the Northwest Community Hospital ER. By then the seizure had already begun to decline and I had my wits about me again. The ER doctor came into see me. He looked at my admittance information and then looked up at me. A look of uncertainty came over his face and he said "haven't I treated you before". My wife said that he had. He was the ER doctor that had been the first one to see me when I initially had the stroke. He was the one who gave Liz no hope.

He was so shaken to see that I had survived, he looked up at me and said "I've got to start going to church more often, there is a God."

God. Three years ago Liz and I, though physically recovering, thought something was missing in our lives. So we had agreed to go to several area churches. The first church we went to was Community Presbyterian and that's when our search ended. Instantly, we were drawn to the pastor. Pastor Greg's sermons were inspirational and we thought he was talking directly to us. Pastor Greg visited us at our home several times and the parishioners welcomed us like long lost family. We both felt as if we have found our spiritual home.

God truly closes one door and opens another.