

Trophies of His Grace

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“Community Bible Study—Lubbock, Texas.” That’s the answer I give when asked about my faith walk and how I came to an ongoing “love relationship” with my Lord and Savior. Little did I know of God’s bigger mission when, in the summer of 1989, He lifted my husband, Bob, and me from the corporate environment of Southwest Airlines in Dallas and placed us in Lubbock for Bob’s new position in the dual presidencies of Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. By the fall of 1989, our feet had barely touched the ground from the various welcoming events and travel surrounding the arrival of a new president, when one of my new friends invited me to go with her to Community Bible Study. Although I accepted, I must admit that I had already begun figuring out why a weekly commitment would never work into our overloaded schedule. Well, God had another plan for me—a plan to prosper me and not to harm me (Jeremiah 29:11). This “one-time” trip to weekly Bible study lasted for the full seven years we were in Lubbock, during which time God, by the Holy Spirit and through Scripture, prayer, and the many women involved in CBS—and a handful in particular—forever changed my life. Bob often remarks that he believes that *his* selection as president of Texas Tech was to place *me* in a place of change and growth so that I might come to know, love, and serve the Lord.

This change came not through an event or a specific time I can pinpoint. Rather, it was a gradual transformation of my heart. Graciously, God began showing me His living Word which looked a lot like me and the people around me, especially the recalcitrant, nonrepentant folks who kept making the same mistakes and sinning in the same ways, over and over again. After all the years of church membership and Sunday school attendance; after all the claims of being a Christian; after all the busy ways of picking and choosing my “service” to God; I was face-to-face with a Living Lord who would no longer let me “pass” for what I was not. He knew the plans He had for me, and He reclaimed my heart, piece by piece as I was willing to surrender it to Him.

When, in 1996, God moved us to the University of Tulsa, I immediately began to research where CBS met in Tulsa, OK. Much to my chagrin, though Tulsa was over twice the size of Lubbock, there was no CBS class. Our Lubbock Teaching Director, Carolyn Farquar, said at the time, “Maybe that is why you are going to Tulsa.” Although I doubted that statement, I must have tucked it away in my heart to ponder, for, in a series of God-led events that would take far more words than I am allowed here, through another Bible study I attended during our first year in Tulsa, I met two women who were deeply committed to our Lord and I shared with them my CBS story. In the meantime, I hosted a group of CBS alumni who were living in Tulsa and several of them, plus a few women from my church, became a year-long praying team for CBS-Tulsa. It was truly a joy to see the fruit of God’s plan ripen into a thriving group, and although not a part of the praying team, the first Teaching Director and Assistant Teaching Director of CBS-Tulsa were the two women with whom I first had shared the CBS story! Another example of God’s intricate, perfect plan! Interestingly, by then, God had another agenda for me

than to be directly involved with CBS-Tulsa, and I was privileged to lead a newly formed group of women at our church for weekly Bible study for seven years before we retired in 2004.

As retirees, we are now back in Lubbock. I am in prayer as to where/how God will lead my next steps, but one thing is sure—God placed me in the midst of CBS-Lubbock in His perfect timing back in 1989, and it forever changed the desire of my heart to love and serve Him forever.

