

same week in the First Baptist Church in Dallas, said, "All he had to do was open the door".

### GOD KNOWS US

**"I have seen the misery of my people and have heard their cries." – Exodus 3:7**

**Psalm 139** When God went to Moses to get him to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt, He told him He was the "God of Abraham; of Isaac and of Jacob" – three different individuals. When David looked back at his life, he said God "created" him and "knitted him together" in his mother's womb (Psalm 139).

Jesus says God sees every sparrow when it lights on the ground and that He knows the number of hairs on our head today (Matthew 10). He tells us we can call Him our "Father" and Paul takes it a step further in Galatians and says we can call Him our "daddy" (Galatians 4:6). The God of the galaxies walks with us through hospital corridors and cemeteries.

It is easy to get lost among the billions of people around us on earth. But each person is special to God. He created you and me as individuals and sent His Son to suffer and die for us as individuals (John 3:16). No one ever had, or ever will have, your fingerprint, your DNA or your face. A teacher in a class of eight-year olds asked them to name some things that were not here ten years ago. Things, like TV shows and special toys were named and one little boy said, "Me, teacher! I wasn't here ten years ago." That little boy was right. There never had been and never would be another "him". There will also never be another "you" or "me".

### GOD ANSWERS US

**"I praise the Lord for hearing my cry for mercy. / My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in songs." – David in Psalm 28:6-7**

Nothing lets us know God is real and with us, any more, than a real answered prayer. In the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade my life caved in. My mother's illness

forced us to live with an uncle who did not want us there. I had to give up my boyhood friends, my neighborhood and my dog. One day, I had nothing to do; and with a heavy heart, I opened a big "Family Bible". On the page before me was Psalm 119 and the paragraph I saw said the very things that were lying heavy on my heart.

I wondered if God was really in this or if landing on that page was a coincidence; so I tried praying something specific. I wanted to play football but was small for my age. I decided to pray and ask God to help me grow ½ inch a month and gain three pounds a month. I nailed a board to the barn wall, marked my height once a month I saw myself grow exactly ½ inch every month. I also saw my scales go up 3 pounds a month. To this day, that was the most remarkable prayer answer I have ever had.

When I told my mother, she said the 9<sup>th</sup> grade is when boys have growth spurts, (which is true); so I chalked it up to a coincidence. Through the years I saw that my mother's illness; my opening that Bible; my growth; and my making the football team were all part of God's plan to lead me to salvation; to being called to the ministry and to finding the wife He had for me living in Texas. I cannot prove this to others; but I have seen proof, time and time again, for myself.

The world calls things like this "coincidences". Archbishop Trench put his sermon title, "God Answers Prayer" on his church sign and a man on the street, who cared little for religion said, "Trench, what you religious people call answered prayers, the rest of us call 'coincidences'". Trench said, "That may be true; but all I know is that the more I pray, the more 'coincidences' I get, so I think I will keep on praying".

God does not care how tall we are or if we play sports. He just wanted me to know that He knew where Gray, Georgia was; and what was going on in the broken heart of a 15-year-old boy.