



Pastor's Page



Linda's Story

(A transcript of the testimony given on Sunday morning 27 August 2006)

For three years I lay in bed just holding my dad's hand, sure I was going to die. I had strokes and constant seizures – I was in and out of hospital. It had come to the point of thinking of ending my life. Then one day the hospital chaplain came to visit me – he put me in touch with Mark (Minister at Selly Park Baptist Church) who came to visit me at home. He began to show me that there is a better life and there's hope, even though I was near to giving up. I found God and faith, plus what I now look at as "my family" (Selly Park Baptist Church)

I now no longer let my disabilities rule my life! I have faith to live my life. I do things now I never thought I could do - I now go on the bus (thanks to Fran and the children!) even getting up Mark's hall (for bible study) is now possible.

Before, I was not able to even get into a car, it was hard enough to sit-up without help, but now I do most of my own care. I now know that nothing is impossible! It has made a big change in my life. Twelve months ago I developed breast cancer, and because of my faith and finding God I had the strength to come out the other side. I no longer think of dying, I want to live and live life to the full.

I am now looking forward to serving God more and showing others like me how having faith and hope, and turning to God, can help them. That there is hope and that life is precious. I love my Selly Park Family for showing me the way. I love you all for showing me a new life, and for bringing me through some bad times. Meeting you all has given me a new purposeful life, looking to him for faith. Thank you for helping me find Christianity and for welcoming me as part of the Selly Park family. I am now able to get through life to the very end. I have all my Selly Park Family as well my brother and sister. You have all become special and precious and I love being part of your family.

I thank you all for showing me that you don't need legs to serve God!
(Linda)

I asked Linda for permission to include her testimony in this weeks' Newsheet and she was more than happy for me to do so. It's a wonderful story of God's saving grace and His transforming love. For me this transformation is movingly summed up by the final sentence. I have to confess I took the liberty of lifting this sentence out from the middle of Linda's story and placing it at the end for impact. I did this because I felt that this statement is both profound and challenging. How easily we can make excuses for not serving God. "I'd love to help with **The Jesus Video Project** but.....?" If like Linda we have a story to tell of God's work in our lives he calls us to tell it. He's not looking for our ability, but our availability.

So, if I may finally paraphrase Linda; "You don't need legs to serve God - just a willing heart!"