

My Faith Journey & Call To Ministry
Edward "Ted" Webb
May 20, 2015

Not having been raised in a Christian Family or growing up surrounded by individuals who could show me Jesus, I spent a majority of my childhood having no idea who Jesus was. My grandfather took me to Sunday school for a year or two, but when he moved that stopped pretty quickly. But let's be honest the real reason I went to Sunday school was for the McDonalds that followed.

During high school I attended a youth group and eventually became a youth leader. I spent time learning about the Bible and understanding Jesus, who he was, and how great of an impact he could be on my life. Directly out of high school I enlisted in the United States Air Force, while I was there I went to Chapel every night and was actually able to get a couple of guys to start going to chapel and eventually accept Christ during our weeks there. Due to events out of my control, and a fluke in paperwork, the Air Force sent me home just days out from Basic Training graduation. However while I was in out-processing I felt some sort of call to ministry.

My call to ministry is something that I then ignored for several years, trying to run away from it. So I spent my first two years in college having nothing to do with my faith and did everything within my power to keep turning the opposite way. But God is great and has ways of bringing people into my life that have instrumental impacts. One of my close friends directed me towards a job at Bay Shore Camp in Sebewaing. There I worked for a summer as a multimedia specialist and was surrounded by kids accepting Christ every week, and it started to change me from the inside out.

Upon returning to college I felt strongly that the situations I was putting myself in were not the ones that God wanted me to be in. So I dropped a lot of my social calendar to serve as a Student Ministry Coordinator, and was even offered a position in the college's Chapel House. Through both of those I was able to lead Bible Studies and be a source for people to come and talk to about troubles in their life, friend groups, and faith. During this time I felt very strongly that I was being called to ministry in the form of being a chaplain. I have always been the person that everyone seems to come to with all their life and relationship issues even when I think that I am

not the right person for them to be talking to . That is where I see God equipping me and empowering me to provide comfort and support to the individuals who came to talk to me. Because of this I began working with the Alma Chaplain, Carol Gregg, in discerning a call to ministry and chaplaincy. She helped me focus my prayers and my spiritual thoughts and begin to look at seminaries. However, during my prayer I felt that I was not in the place that God wanted me to be in, and wouldn't be able to afford seminary. So I started telling God that it wasn't for me; I would learn soon that fighting God is totally and utterly useless.

After graduating and taking a full-time position at the same summer camp that had turned my entire life around, God continued to work on me. Part of my job was to provide pulpit supply to churches and to speak on Bay Shore Camp as to attract people to attend camps. It started as just speaking on summer camp, and turned into a spiritual exercise I reading my bible, finding scripture, and being moved just as much myself about how to relate scripture to why summer camp is important. During this time I felt God strongly telling me that I was time for me to leave Bay Shore Camp, and little did I know I would be in the position I am today and attending Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and working towards my M.Div. Having stuck to my college roots the Alma First Presbyterian Church has become my home away from home.

God is so great and I am looking forward to what He has in store for me in the future. I am currently in the process of discerning if God wants me to be a hospital or military chaplain. But it is God's time and not my time, and to me it's important to stay committed to His word to better understand my life and what He has in store for me.