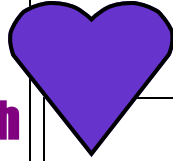


The Oak Tree

A monthly publication of

**Oak Street
Baptist Church**



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After almost 12 years of marriage and 4 beautiful kids, we thought we had life all figured out. My husband had a great job, Kallee, Kolton, and Katie went to Open Door Christian School and I stayed at home with Kolby. We had just built a new home, we were in church every Sunday, and on the outside there was a perfect family who looked like they had it all together. We were comfortable and happy, but little did we know that we were in the biggest spiritual battle we'd ever faced.

In a moment, life as we knew it became a disaster. Suddenly my husband walked out the door and we were living in separate houses. I had filed for divorce which is something I never wanted to do to my children since I came from a broken home. We watched our lives crumble to the floor as the enemy came in to destroy our family. I remember crying out to God that I would do whatever it took to make my marriage work.

The kids prayed every day for us to get back together again and be a family like we used to be. Kallee said she didn't want to live in a broken home like so many of her friends. Pastor Joe gave me a scripture that was our prayer for Dean.

II Timothy 2:25-26 ~ "Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

After 3 weeks of separation, Dean showed up on a Sunday morning wanting to go to church with us. That day Dean went to the altar and it was a turning point in our marriage for reconciliation. Dean decided he wanted to come home. God answered our prayers! Now our family is living proof that if we humble ourselves before God and allow brokenness, God will perform miracles. We were each able to go on a walk to Emmaus where God changed us and showed us about forgiveness.

I have learned to put God first in my marriage. Dean and I understand that love is a choice and sure, we still have battles to face, but our marriage is stronger and better today. We give God the glory for that. Dean even surprised me with the most amazing gift. He and a close friend planned a renewal of our wedding vows with our close family and friends. That wedding meant more to us than the first one because it was a true covenant between us and God.

God continues to work in our lives even today. Kolton said his faith is stronger. Katie asked Jesus into her heart at Camp Change and I watched Kallee lead her friend to Christ. We want to thank God for the blessing of reconciliation! There is hope through Jesus Christ and we live it every day.

Dean and I are so blessed with the wonderful job he has, 4 amazing kids, and a family that is still together. This is the kind of love we strive for ~ *I Corinthians 13:4-8. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails!"* I love you, Dean!

All Glory to God!

BOOKMARKS

New in the Library:

Voices of the Faithful

by Beth Moore

The Power of Praying for

Your Adult Children

by Stormie Omartian

Redefining Beautiful

by Jenna Lucado

The Five Languages of

Apology

by Gary Chapman

If God is God

by Randy Alcorn

You Were Born for This

by Bruce Wilkerson

First 4 weeks in

January Stats

Monthly Budget Needs

\$63,743.00

Total Giving for January ~

\$64,936.40

Average Worship Attendance ~

400

NEW MEMBERS
For **January**

Shelly Delong
Justin Loftis



Announcements: Go to the Children's Ministry page of our website to view our new slide show of Awana pics!

Fun! Fun!

It's that time again! Summer Camp for Kidz - CAMP CHANGE registration starts the beginning of March!