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Finding my faith

Chicken Soup for the Soul celebrates life, belief and spiritual renewal

COS COB, Conn. – Our faith often carries us through the hardest times of our lives, but what if the hard times cause you to lose faith? Ginny Dubose was terrified of raising her newborn baby, Danny, alone after her husband left her. She planned to leave Danny with her parents and take her own life. On the day of her plan, a coworker's simple question changed her mind: how would Ginny's parents explain to Danny why both of his parents left him? She realized that what she thought was a noble act was actually selfish. That night she prayed for help to raise her child. She was overcome with peace and knew she was going to be fine. The next day Ginny thanked her coworker for what he said, only to find out he hadn't actually been at work that day. "But God had been," Ginny says. "He had known the only words that could save me and my son." The 101 contributors to *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, October 16, 2012, 978-1935096955, \$14.95), like Ginny, have struggled with their faith through difficult times in their lives, but eventually found it again through miraculous events.

The 101 stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith*, celebrate moments when our faith brings us through life's critical moments. After losing her family in a tragic car accident, Patrick P. Stafford's daughter-in-law found herself angry with God and completely dependent on pills to function in everyday life. One night she was walking alone when she heard a voice telling her not to be afraid and that nothing would harm her if she believed. She saw a man walking sinisterly toward her, and although she was afraid, she stood her ground just as the voice had told her, and prayed. The man passed her with no harm! She was kept safe that night, and the experience restored her faith in God as well. "Since that night, I talk to God often, for I have learned how to pray. Every moment of my life, I am grateful to God for the opportunity He gave me to love Him," she writes. "He saved my life, He saved my sanity, and ultimately He saved my soul."

Even if we have lost faith, we always end up where we need to be. Christine Trollinger hadn't been to church in six years, but one Christmas she had an overwhelming desire to go to Midnight Mass. During communion she fell to her knees and heard God saying, "Welcome home!" "Needless to say, I came home to my faith," Christine says. "Christ set me back on the road to belief in Him. It is a decision I have never regretted. And even though I have not heard Him speak to me since that day, I know He is real and loves us all. I was lost and He came to find me, just as the Bible says."

The kindness of strangers is often a powerful force in restoring our faith. Jeffrey A. Schmatz's 8-year-old son, Jeremy, was struggling after the removal of a golf ball-sized brain tumor. He was going to therapy, but recovery was proving to be a difficult road. "Devil Went Down to Georgia" by Charlie Daniels had always been Jeremy's favorite song, so when Charlie came to town, Jeffrey brought Jeremy to meet him. Charlie and Jeremy had a long conversation, and Charlie even signed a violin bow for Jeremy! The simple meeting was life changing. "That concert was when Jeremy moved from being a brain tumor victim to a brain tumor fighter," Jeffrey writes. "That night, because of the kindness and consideration of a stranger from Tennessee who simply took the time to care, Jeremy finally chose to fight."

The 101 stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith* tell of faith lost and found again through family, friends, and seemingly unexpected places like nature or loss. Regardless of creed, readers of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith* are sure to feel inspired by these stories of spiritual renewal.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Susan M. Heim) releases on September 18, 2012. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which is distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold more than 100 million copies in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 countries and translated into more than forty languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media—working on several TV shows as well as a major motion picture, and developing a digital presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. In 2007, *USA Today* named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit www.chickensoup.com.

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To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith* or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com