



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 27, 2019

WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ATTEND A SCHOOL THAT OFFERED INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLASSES AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL. IN THIRD GRADE YOU COULD PLAY THE RECORDER IN CLASS AND THEN IN FOURTH GRADE YOU COULD BEGIN TO PLAY A STRING, WOODWIND, OR BRASS INSTRUMENT. THIS EXCITED ME TO MY CORE.

MY PARENTS WERE (ARE) BOTH MUSICAL WITH A FOCUS ON SINGING BUT THEY DID NOT PLAY WOODWIND OR BRASS INSTRUMENTS. I GREW UP CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY SINGING. WHEN PEOPLE JOKE ABOUT OUR HOUSE BEING LIKE A MUSICAL, THEY AREN'T FAR OFF FROM THE TRUTH. SINGING WAS FUN FOR ME AND I LOVED MUSIC BUT PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT FELT LIKE A WAY TO MAKE MUSIC MY OWN.

WHEN I DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND PLAY AN INSTRUMENT I HAD TO GO THROUGH THOSE AVAILABLE AND PICK THE ONE I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN. THERE WERE MANY CHOICES. CLARINETS, TROMBONES, SAXOPHONES, VIOLINS, ETC. BUT ONE INSTRUMENT FELT FAMILIAR.

I REMEMBER SITTING IN THE SANCTUARY ONE SUNDAY DURING MORNING WORSHIP AND LISTENING TO THE PIANO, ORGAN, AND SINGING. THEN FOR SPECIAL MUSIC SOMEONE GOT UP AND BEGAN TO PLAY "THE HOLY CITY" ON THE TRUMPET. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL. I WENT UP TO HER AFTER THE SERVICE AND TOLD HER HOW MUCH I LIKED IT. THAT WEEK AT SCHOOL I PICKED THE TRUMPET.

THE SCHOOL OFFERED INSTRUMENTS TO STUDENTS WHO NEEDED THEM. I BEGAN USING THE SCHOOL INSTRUMENT INSTEAD OF BUYING ONE RIGHT AWAY. I REMEMBER THE MOMENT I TOLD THAT TRUMPET PLAYER THAT I DECIDED TO PLAY IT. SHE LIT UP AND WAS VERY QUICK TO OFFER ME HER OLD TRUMPET. I WAS EXTREMELY EXCITED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE SAME INSTRUMENT SHE PLAYED, CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD ALLOW ME TO SOUND JUST LIKE HER. ALTHOUGH I NEVER REACHED HER LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY, I LOVED PLAYING THAT INSTRUMENT FOR YEARS.

FAST FORWARD TO THIS LAST SUNDAY. AS KAREN BEGAN TO PLAY "THE HOLY CITY," MEMORIES OF MY FIRST SOUNDS, FIRST SOLOS, AND THE RESULTING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES BEGAN TO FLOOD MY MIND. IT WAS A JOY TO HEAR THAT SOUND THAT INSPIRED MY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC JOURNEY. WHAT BRINGS EVEN MORE JOY IS KNOWING THAT THE JOURNEY BEGAN NOT JUST AS A RESULT OF A BEAUTIFUL SOUND, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WHEN THAT TRUMPET WAS GIVEN TO ME THERE WAS A STIPULATION THAT I WAS TO USE IT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. I TOOK THAT VERY SERIOUSLY AND HAVE USED IT AS A CATALYST FOR MAKING MUSIC EVER SINCE.

THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO IMPACT OTHERS FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH INTERACTION. I HOPE OUR INTENTIONALITY IS EVIDENT IN EACH CHANCE TO ENGAGE WITH OTHERS.

"SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH; IT SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY, BUT IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH I PURPOSE, AND SHALL SUCCEED IN THE THING FOR WHICH I SENT." ISAIAH 55:11

GRACE AND PEACE,  
ADAM