



Hello I am Keith Listoe, Who I'm sure Most of you recognize my name,  
Now You are able to put my face with it.

I would like to start with a great big thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you today. , For those not familiar with who I am, I have been a Member of this congregation since moving to Winnipeg in 1991, I owe All of my Thanks to God for saving my life In Dec. 2002 As I went into the hospital With the most intense Pain (headache I have ever felt. Learning post arrival it was due to bleeding in my brain, My second Thanks are also to God for Enabling the meeting and relationship I have with Teri Flynn Who was responsible for getting me to the hospital, and being beside me / With me through this very tragic times. She has told me of the hours she sat in the hospital praying for me, I thank her for her faith and believe in prayer, Further thanks for praying for me to My Mom, as well as the Prayer team Here at Epiphany Lutheran church. I feel I should shed some info on the nature of my condition requiring this prayer. I first arrived at the Victoria Hospital where a ct scan revealed bleeding in my brain, but that they could do nothing for me at this hospital so would require transferring me to the HSC, Upon arriving there I was operated on immediately to stop the bleeding and remove a large blood clot from a bleed 3 days prior, Which would have been the reason for a headache during playing a hockey game on the previous Friday night. Which I believed at the time due to dehydration, as it disappeared soon after drinking a couple glasses of water. After the game was over Then As I was waking from this first operation I became sick to my stomach, but due

to already having a stroke my mouth did not open properly and the vomit filled my left lung, causing pneumonia to set in, Then a second operation was performed to repair an uncountable number of aneurysms in my brain, Over the next couple of days they tell me I was having extreme reactions to some kind of infection, Which was diagnosed as an E-coli infection. Upon completion of the second surgery, My Parents, Teri and my children were told, there is no more we can do for Keith Surgically. Then on the fourth day in the hospital they had to call in a neurosurgeon at 3:30-4:00 am as something had to be done. As my entire brain had started to swell, Not just the areas of my brain where the bleeding occurred, When the neurosurgeon arrived and had reviewed my charts he remarked, "I have no idea what I could possibly do for Keith surgically, but if I do nothing He is dead for sure. He left them all standing in the hallway with the comment I am going in here on a wing and a prayer. As he entered the operating room it was at this point my Mom phoned my younger sister, Deborah, who was in Winnipeg staying at my place if she could search the house for some olive oil and bring it to the hospital. When Deborah arrived at the hospital with the oil my Mom took it and went to the operating room to Pray for me. Using the oil she anointed me and prayed to Jesus that He save her son's (Keith's) life as God had done for Hagar As written in the book of Genesis chapter 21, versus 7-11 The Neurosurgeon has told me post this operation that He cut my skull open releasing the pressure building inside my skull within seconds of my brain collapsing onto the top of my spinal column killing me instantly. He removed a quarter of my skull on the top right side of my head to allow somewhere for my brain to swell to without increasing pressure in my skull. I was left with just my scalp covering this part of my head until Sep02/2003 at which time the neurosurgeon replaced the two bones removed and a titanium plate to hold everything in place until it healed. I had to learn how to walk again before being discharged from the hospital on April 07/2003. The following is provided so you can fully appreciate my Thankfulness To God for saving

my life, I do not feel I was ready to die, As I was not in the habit of asking god to forgive my sins on a daily basis, On Sunday Feb13/05 Which I discovered was the first Sunday of Lent only after Hearing this from Pastor Ed during the service. The Message He Preached On this Sunday was very touching to Me On a very Personal Level As I felt it was so true to my life; I almost stood up and started talking as I Felt I had something to add and share to his Preaching. However I refrained as I did not want to be rude, and as I learned near the End of the service there was not enough time for me to say anything as it was near to the time for the 11:00 o'clock service to begin. This touching message was how easily we walk away from God. I feel That over the years I had walked away from God Trying to correct one sin with another and not asking God for assistance and guidance, or forgiveness, So Now You can Understand how joyous and Thankful that Jesus does not leave our sides even when we may walk away from him. Thank You to all in the Prayer team and all who prayed for me 2 years ago, When I came within seconds of dying, I must also Say Thanks to My Mom For Her strong Faith and Belief in the Healing Power and Mercy of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior, For She Has told me How She Prayed to Jesus That He May Save her son Keith As God had done for Hagar, As written in the book of Genesis Chapter21 versus 4-11. This has greatly influenced me in my Faith and Thus I want to share with You All to assure you that Prayers are answered and God never leaves us. After this most vivid encounter it made me look back over my life and realize that this is probably not the first time He has saved my life, He truly must have a purpose for me here on this earth as when I was about 9 or 10, I went to Regina With my Parents as they attended a Gideon convention, There were various activities organized for all the children, One day we went swimming at Buffalo Pound. The Park had a round swimming pool that got deeper towards the centre. I really enjoyed being in the water, but could not float or tread water. If I dove in and started swimming I was ok I could stay on top of the water but if I stopped I

would sink like a rock, Most of the kids in the pool were playing with a ball I was standing near the edge with the water about mid chest deep. I remember the ball flying towards me over the centre of the pool, I tried to jump up in the air and catch the ball, However when I tried my feet slipped on the bottom of the pool and into the deep water I slid along the bottom of the pool. I panicked trying to get to the surface for a breath of air, Up and down I went I remember seeing a guy swimming towards me as I came to the surface one time. The next thing I remember was lying on the grass beside the pool throwing up. That was my first close call, Then When I was 16 Playing goal for the Local Men's Hockey team. An Opposing team's defenseman took a slap shot from the blue line. The puck rose fast hitting me square in the throat. It was like someone was dimming the lights as everything went grey and swirling around. I knew the puck was on the ice below me and just wanted to find it and cover it up but everything I did was in slow motion as I fought to keep from blacking out. This broke my larynx (Adams apple) as for a good couple of years after I could stick my finger in the moveable flap now in it.

Then probably about 10-15 years ago I was on a trampoline at Shelley's sister's place in Saskatoon. I was bouncing away Thinking it would be great to do a flip and see if I could land on my feet. I could not overcome the fear of trying this backwards so I first tried it forward this was very difficult, and Bill, Susan's husband was there mentioned that it is much easier backwards. So I tried backwards with a successful landing on my first attempt, this was fun, so I continued bouncing and flipping backwards. After several successful flips I thought one more. But I didn't look back far enough or fast enough and I landed straight on top of my head. I was amazed that it did not appear I had broken anything. However my neck and shoulders were very sore. So I went to the local hospital for a quick check, they did an x-ray and I was glad that no damage was done. Lastly I would like to say that I want everyone to know of the extreme hardship and difficulty Teri has been through with all that has happened to

me, As I talk to most people they are all concerned about myself and how difficult this must be for me. However it is my belief that it is much more difficult and harder on the caregiver for a stroke survivor as they are fully aware of all that is happening and must deal with it. I was not aware of everything until I was released from the hospital on April07/2003. So I want all to know that it was Teri that loved and cared for me unconditionally through all of this and without her by my side I am sure I would not have made it through. Thank you Teri, I LOVE YOU



TERI

I would like to share this scripture passage with you: (Jesus is speaking These are the signs that will be associated with believers: ...They will lay their hands on the sick who will recover. Mark 16.17a, 18c) From the Jerusalem Bible I Have with me here A book Named Dare to Believe given to me for Christmas /2004 from my Parents, Written by a good friend of theirs The Rev Ruth Taylor through the order of St Luke Chapter in Moose jaw Sk. I am donating this book to the church Library so all can borrow it and enjoy/believe in the power of Faith and Prayer. May God Bless you all have a great Rest of the Day!

