

After I was born again, I was baptized in 1960 by the Rev. Samuel F. Rabun of New Northside Baptist Church. It was a small church located on a side street in north St. Louis, Missouri. The basement flooded during the rainy season, but it was a "fun" church. Everyone knew everyone. My whole family and all my friends were there. Before I left to go to college, Rev. Willie J. Ellis, Jr. became my pastor. I taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, sang in the choir, attended Baptist Conventions, revivals, etc. Rev. Ellis was very good for the church and, while I was away, the church increased in size and stature. It became necessary for the church to move to a new location.

While away I obtained a number of degrees, a Bachelor in my double major of Business Administration and Office Administration, and a Juris Doctorate in Law. I had also become unequally yoked. I was not happy with my home life. I later divorced within the laws allowed by Christ.

I was equally unhappy because my "fun" church had moved. Not everyone had moved with it because some stayed at the old location. I was not sure if I wanted to go either.

I opted to select my own church. I finally settled in a church I believed I would spend the remainder of my life. I was teaching Sunday School and Bible Class again. I was singing in the choir. Then two alumni of Brookes, Mother Dorothy Leonard and Minister Deborah Edwards, approached me and told me that I needed to go to school. I knew they were serious as I remembered my blessings. I no longer drove, but rode Call-A-Ride vans. I was diagnosed as an epileptic, drove for several years until I had attacks behind the wheel. The Lord blessed me in those instances not to hurt myself or anyone. I had also experienced two comatose-type seizures for which I was hospitalized each time. I have had each hip replaced and I know the Lord has blessed me to be able to walk again.

So my friends were asking me to consider going back to school as I worked a full time stressful job. I told them I had too much on my plate. But I promised I would enroll in one semester of Brookes Bible Institute. I was thoroughly pleased as I sat listening to the instructors in my first classes (Ezekiel and Thessalonians). I no longer had any excuses regarding the Call-A-Ride. Sometimes the instructors or students would help me by staying to wait on its arrival or in some other way. At other times fellow classmates would take me home or to a bus stop. I began to look forward to classes. The stress of the day job was alleviated by the prayer, praises, and learning in Brookes. I grew to appreciate comparing man's law with God's law. From that one promise that I would enroll in one semester, I graduated with more credits than needed for an Associate Degree in May 2008.

Another change in my life was that I returned to my birth church of New Northside. I no longer worry about its location on a main thoroughfare or the fact that it is a big church with lots of members that I do not know. I make church "fun" because it's to His glory. I teach, sing in the choir, write the Sunday School summary for the church website, and I am on the Sisters of Mercy mission team. I get much joy from serving the Lord. God has blessed me indeed.