

Southern Adventist University

KnowledgeExchange@Southern

The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

10-28-2019

Based on a True Story

Anna Bennett

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"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6-8 ESV

Based on a True Story

It is a vivid memory in my mind, driving back from church with my family one particular Saturday when I was home for the weekend from academy. We passed a billboard that said, "We buy ugly houses!" I knew nothing about mortgages or the home-buying process at the time since I was only sixteen. My dad often took me on the Parade of Homes tour on Sunday afternoons after we finished chores so that I could investigate the variety of home designs, layouts, and such since I wanted to pursue a future career in architecture or interior design. When I saw the billboard though, what immediately flashed through my mind was nothing related to houses or building or designing. As the words registered in my mind, I immediately heard God say, "I died for sinful people to set them free! Anna, I died to set *you* free." God's only Son paid the price for my freedom. I saw myself as ugly and sinful, and yet, God still died for me.

I grew up in a family that loved God and loved one another. The single greatest impact on my spiritual walk growing up was waking up, coming into the living room and seeing my mom with bowed head, Bible in her lap, lips silently moving as she spoke to Jesus and then sat in quietness to listen to Him. Meanwhile, my dad would be downstairs in his man cave reading through prophecies and Bible history to know and understand God more fully. When I was just ten years old I knew I loved Jesus and wanted to be baptized as a result. My upbringing fostered my own personal walk with God and a desire to think critically for myself so that I never really had a reason to rebel. And as a result, I didn't think I had much of a testimony because the testimonies I had heard up to that point, were often personal stories of running away from God and then coming back.

Seeing this billboard, feeling God's voice impress the words, "Anna, I died to set you free," bounced around in my heart the rest of the day. Maybe *this* was my story? Maybe this was my song? Praising my Savior all the day long! I began to see my story through the eyes of my Savior, the One who came to search for me, found me, saw me, looked deeply into my heart to know everything there is to know about me, and desired me to live free. Throughout my life I've learned that yes, God has set me free, *and* He gives me grace and strength to live in that freedom every day!

This week is our Fall Week of Prayer and our theme is "Based on a True Story." Each day this week we'll be hearing stories from individuals who are a part of our own campus family, and we invite you - take a look at your life and contemplate this question, *What is my story?* Maybe someone else's story will shed some light on your own:

- Monday, 8pm: **Joseph Khabbaz** - "Based on a True Story: When God Tips the Scale"
- Tuesday, 8pm: **Nick Livanos** - "Based on a True Story: Playing the Part"

- Wednesday, 8pm: **Dennis Negron** - “Based on a True Story: The Hardest Thing God Ever Asked Me to Do”
- Thursday, 11am: **Alva Johnson** - “Based on a True Story: From Brooklyn to Brock”
- Thursday, 8pm: **LaShawn Horton** - “Based on a True Story: From a Broken Home to a Mended Heart”
- Friday, 7:30pm: **Adam Heck** - “Based on a True Story: Daddy Lessons”
- Sabbath, 9am & 11:45am: **Alan Parker** - “Based on a True Story: Crossroads”

As you strive to make the Main Thing, the main thing this week, I pray that you will discover a greater understanding of your own story and how it is a part of the greater story of Jesus Christ!

FALL WEEK OF PRAYER

based

on a

true

story

Monday 8pm:
JOSEPH KHABBAZ

Tuesday 8pm:
NICK LIVANOS

Wednesday 8pm:
DENNIS NEGRON

Thursday 11am:
ALVA JOHNSON

Thursday 8pm:
LASHAWN HORTON

Friday 7:30pm:
ADAM HECK

**Sabbath 9am,
11:45 am:**
ALAN PARKER

COLLEGEDALE
SDA CHURCH

-Anna Bennett