



Chatham
Habitat
for Humanity®



Raising Faith Stories

Bobby Nicholas, Member of Emmaus Baptist Church and Chatham Habitat Homeowner

Before I found my faith, I was just an ordinary human being trying to make it through life, and life finally got me to the point where I knew I couldn't do it. We were really poor, we were living in a camper on a piece of land that I did own but couldn't afford to build a house or anything on it. Then Crystal found out she was pregnant for the second time, so we had to move into an apartment somewhere – but where we moved, it wasn't a good spot.

Finally, I was just broken so bad that I was scared we were going to lose our apartment. Crystal was going through some medical problems with Angel. They couldn't figure out what was wrong with her. There was a possibility that I could lose both of them during this pregnancy, and it finally got to the point where I didn't have much income and was doing whatever I could do to make some money, and I was struggling. We didn't feel safe or secure at all.

One day I just gave up, and I went outside and I started crying, and I called out to God and asked Him to 'help me. I can't take it no more, and I can't do it without Him'. And I didn't even know who He was, just kind of knew but I didn't. And it seemed like the next day, He stepped in and helped because the landlord came over and asked if I could be the manager of the place, and I could live there rent-free. Of course, I took that on and then we finally sold our land after many years of trying.

When you get to a certain point, you realize the only thing you have left is to wait on God and see what He's going to do. Crystal kept on reminding me about faith and how it works. That was on Friday, and Monday the lady that we sold the house to calls me and she just happened to work for a lawyer, and got us \$4500 back on the land. So we took that and were going to find us an apartment, and we found a trailer in a trailer park. It's funny because the trailer was \$4500. Once we moved in, we had about \$10 left, so we paid for gas and went to church.

We lived there for about 10 years in the trailer raising Angel, and that's when Abigail came along. We were in a better place than the hotel, but it was in a trailer park that wasn't very safe. As my faith grew, we just wanted a house. So Crystal's foster mother offered for us to come down here and just get away from everything and start back over, and she would help us get a house. So we moved down here, gave away everything we had, and started all over again. It was just another step of faith. We lived here renting for a couple of years, and that's when we found out about Habitat and filled out an application. We watched the house being built even though we didn't know that would be our house.

Because all of that happened and we now own the house, my faith has been even stronger. I remember the struggle throughout my life of wanting a house and need a safe place to live. I feel that towards people and know what they feel like, so that's the main reason I still volunteer for Chatham Habitat.