**Barbara Ames Bio**

My journey with our Lord began when I gave my heart to him during Vacation Bible School in a small, rural Baptist church near my childhood home in Southeast Kansas. Since that time my relationship with Him has grown and matured so much, and continues to be an exciting adventure.

During a dark time as my eighteen-year marriage was ending in divorce, I felt as I prayed on a prayer walk one morning that God promised me a career in Family and Consumer Sciences. Much in need of a job, I was excited at the prospect of working in the field of my college major. In retrospect I now see what God knew all along…I wasn’t quite ready yet. It was after about ten more years of working other jobs in business administration and human resources, and learning many life lessons through a variety of experiences, that my employer filed bankruptcy. I found myself updating my resume yet again, and being rejected after many interviews for jobs in business. It was a very difficult time…but God!

God is so faithful! I just retired from a successful career where I needed and used that Family and Consumer Sciences degree, AND the skills I learned in business. It required me stepping out in faith and moving by myself to a place where I knew no one to start life over again. The job was demanding, something new most every day, with lots of travel and responsibility. I remember so many days when I would get up and pray that God would help me get to wherever I needed to be that day, and be able to successfully accomplish whatever the days task required. I knew I couldn’t manage it on my own, but He never let me down! Somehow, he would work things out in amazing ways and along the way He provided successes and perks I could have only imagined. Some days were very difficult, many days were so fun. But I always knew I was where God placed me and that gave me confidence. I learned that God puts us in places where we have only Him to rely on because it teaches us important lessons and grows us in our walk with Him.

Newly retired, I am seeking God again for His vision for this next chapter of my life. At this point, I am continuing to serve in various ways in the Nazarene church where I am a member, as well as continuing to assist with the Midwest Christian Singles Ministry. We are living in tumultuous times. As I read scripture, I am amazed to see it come alive because some of the things I read are happening before my eyes. Scriptures which used to seem to make no sense now seem entirely believable. God is good. God is faithful. God is all powerful and is moving across our land. I believe our job is to keep our faith in Him, our focus on Him, and get on board the train. He has work for us to do!