



Blooming and Growing under God's Loving Kindness

A testimony by Joyce Boddie

If you have never purchased a memory foam

mattress topper, you are missing an experience. With the operating word being “foam”, the box is surprisingly heavy and awkward and one wonders how this queen size piece of foam fits into the box. Reading the directions after the foam is out of the box lets you know it isn't ready to be used right away. It needs to lie flat for a couple days to expand to the full size. Flat was an issue for us. All beds were in use and the floor had a dog. The only flat surface was the dining room table, so we watched this piece of foam that would be a comfort to our weary bones bloom and grow on the table and ate elsewhere!

When I came to Gloria Dei I was broken and weary, having been through the trauma of a church split. This church was where I had raised my daughters, worked on many committees, taught classes and was on staff as a Parish Nurse. I had tried another church after leaving my church home, but they also were having trouble. Gloria Dei took me in and gently loved me. In the years here, I have lost my husband, a sister and another job. You have been here to love me and help me mend. I felt like the memory foam topper slowly being taken from the box and stretched flat to recover.

In the beginning of this year, I was asked if I would like to be a part of a prayer group to pray about our building project that was in its formative stages. I readily accepted. The group moved on to interview agencies to work with us on a Capital Campaign and I accepted the assignment to call some of the churches that had used our chosen agency to

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determine anything that would change our minds. As I made these calls, I realized that a few months before, I would not have been able to make these calls. I was just not able in my being to pull all that was needed together. God was slowly restoring me.



The process started in the prayer group kept moving forward, as I was asked and accepted a position on the steering committee. I was very surprised that I would be on a committee like this again. **I just didn't think I had it in me anymore. God sees differently.** He was restoring me slowly.

As time passed and we worked on the Forward in Faith project, I developed friendships and relationships on a deeper level.

Laughter and discussions were always good. I

felt my soul expand in an area I was lacking... a church family. I had been missing that closeness and fellowship that was so much a part of my life all those years at the previous church. I have had a great deal of fun doing the coffees for Forward in Faith and found a renewal in skills I thought gone in that area too. So, like the memory foam mattress topper that we watched bloom and grow on our dining room table, you have been watching me also bloom and grow under God's loving guidance. **I am expanded and ready for use. Thank you Lord, and thank you my church family for loving me and helping me along the way!**

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