

Joe Walters - Senior Graphic Designer

In 1994, my wife and I bought a lot in Gurnee and it happened to be right next to the Chapman family. They moved in a few weeks after us and then I learned that Scott was a pastor who was planting a church. At first, I felt uncomfortable living next to a pastor, but that was before I got to know him. The more I learned about him the more I admired him.

Over the next couple of years my wife and I dealt with not being able to have children. Each cycle that we went through included shots, surgeries, procedures, lots of doctor's appointments and worst of all – a lot of waiting. Each cycle ended in disappointment, leading us deeper into despair. We weren't going to church except for us being "Chreasters" (Christmas and Easter church attenders) and we were at a point where we felt cheated by God. We felt empty, alone and we didn't know what to do. I knew something was missing in our lives and would have tried anything to fill the emptiness I felt.

As we got to know Scott and Tammy Chapman, it seemed like they had it all together. On occasion I would mention that maybe we should check out The Chapel, just for kicks. So one day, we went. I vividly remember entering the church and being warmly greeted. Scott's message was so great and it seemed like he was talking to us. His words touched my heart like I had never felt and by the end of the service, I felt such an acceptance.

Very soon after finding the Chapel, I finally knew what it was to have faith. The people of The Chapel helped me trust in God and let him take over the steering wheel. The Chapel has taught me how an intimate relationship with God is so necessary to my life. The power and love of God has changed my life and saved me. It has changed the way I think, feel and act. 1 Chronicles 16: 11 reminds me daily "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

Not more than a year later, I don't think I have to tell you why I chose Scott Chapman to baptize me. It's amazing that God chose the exact neighbor I needed to point me to Him.