

# Legacy Lodge

## *Strengthening Family through Christ*

Daren Rickard's testimony

In August of 2007, I fell 20 feet headfirst into a concrete window well landing on my head. I was working with a new employee from Uganda, and without a doubt, he helped if not solely saved my life. He restrained me and wrapped his own shirt around my bleeding head. He was able to climb out of the window well and get help. Shortly after making it to the hospital, I had a hematoma in the vascular region on my neck. There were arrangements being made for flight for life. God had arranged through Wendy for people to pray outside the hospital.

My sister-in-law prayed for two hours that morning burdened for somebody, but she didn't know who. The hematoma went down, and I woke up in the hospital not knowing what had happened. There have been many struggles since that accident. I believe that God has demonstrated His mighty power through the one sanctified and uniquely made for me, Wendy. She has been strong enough to hold the family together while I recover from a traumatic brain injury. She completes me perfectly.

Thank you God for this opportunity, thank you for life and for this challenge. I believe that there is a purpose for my life to be the husband to Wendy and father to Abigail and T.J., and another purpose which He gave to me in a sleepless night when I wrote a plan for a family camp. Today we call that vision Legacy Lodge, a community-wide ministry, strengthening family through Christ. Through the struggles we have had as a family, we want to help other families to stand strong and be encouraged.

There is a call upon my life. Life has a purpose, and He has told me over and over again, "Daren, I don't need you; I want you." God has prompted me to read His word and pray He will work all things out for the good. He can do exceedingly abundantly more than you can think or ask.

I was trying to get back to the person that I was before the accident, and I was emotionally down because of this. Then I remembered my prayers. Lord, change me from the person that I am today and make me into the person that you made me to be. He answered that prayer. I am not the person that I once was. The old is gone and the new has come and now I am relying upon Jesus Christ as I earnestly seek Him. His Word states remain in me as I remain in you, for I am the vine and you are a branch, remain in me.

Jesus Christ is with me and I know that he is with you also and that we can do everything through him who gives us strength.