

Story #1 Joni

As a teenager Joni Eareckson Tada loved riding horses, playing tennis, and many other outdoor sports. Just before turning 18, Joni dove into a lake and broke her neck. She lost the ability to use her legs and arms. Even though this changed her life in a big way, Joni used what she could. In fact, she became an amazing painter by putting the brush between her teeth! She has also become an incredible author who has written dozens of books! Joni had amazing faith in Jesus and really trusted that God had something special for her to do with her life. Joni has also recorded several albums.

Story #2 Lecrae

As a young boy, Lecrae had a really difficult life. He was treated really badly at home and used music to escape. He also looked for a role model in his life and started looking up to gangsters. Lecrae got further and further into bad situations, drugs, and even became a drug dealer. But in his late teen years, Lecrae started listening to his grandmother who told him to take faith seriously. Eventually, he started going to church and Bible study. Through his faith in Jesus, his whole life got turned around. The music that had helped him to escape when he was younger became more of a passion for him too, and he started to use his difficult experiences and music for God.

Story #3 Bethany

Bethany Hamilton grew up in Hawaii. She loved water and loved surfing. When she was 13 years old, Bethany went out surfing when she was attacked by a shark that bit off her left arm. Bethany thought her surf career was done, but she made a huge comeback and became as a successful professional surfer. She was able to use her role as a pro surfer to talk about God with others. There was even a movie made about her life called *Soul Surfer*.

Story #4 Fanny

When Fanny Crosby was a baby, she got sick and lost her eyesight. She was totally blind. After only a few more months, her dad died. Her mom had to raise her all alone. She moved around quite a bit, but always connected in with a church. Fanny loved God, and also loved to write. She wrote poems and songs. In fact, as she grew older, Fanny went on to write 8000 hymns and other songs.