

BOOKS

A mother's surprise visitor in an Abilene hospital

By Loretta Fulton

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A new book by a man with several Abilene ties falls into the spirituality genre but contains a mystery.

The author, James Wallace, is hoping that someone will read the book — or read about it — and solve the mystery. Wallace, who lives in Starkville, Mississippi, has two daughters and two grandbabies living in Abilene. Both daughters attended Abilene Christian University and a son, Josh, attended Hardin-Simmons University.

The chapter with the mystery concerns Josh. The title of the book is "Walking With God — How a Simple, Daily Habit Can Change Your Life." The book is the third published by Wallace through his own company, Southern River Publishing.

The chapter about Josh — and the mystery — is titled, "God Is In Control." The event occurred in 2004 when Josh, who played football at Hardin-Simmons, was injured in a game. He was hospitalized and developed an infection. The story in the book is told from the point of view of both parents, James and Nancy Wallace.

As Josh's condition worsened, Nancy Wallace began to question whether God was listening to her prayers. Out of the blue, a woman approached her and said she was the wife of one of Josh's male nurses.

The nurse had told his wife about Josh's condition. The woman explained to Nancy Wallace that she was sitting in Sunday School at her church in Clyde when God urged her to visit Nancy and give her a message: "God hears your prayers. He is listening."

Nancy regained her faith and Josh regained his health. He is fully recovered now, his father said, and lives in Lafayette, La., with his wife and child. Eleven years after the

event, the name of the woman with the message is still a mystery to the Wallaces.

"We've always wondered who that was," James Wallace said.

The chapter about Josh is available free on the website, www.southernriverpublishing.com. The "southern river" in the title is the Mississippi. Wallace frequently walked along the bluffs overlooking the river in Natchez, Mississippi, where he grew up. His book, which is available on amazon.com, talks about the blessings that come from a physical walk as well as a spiritual walk. It is the first book in a new series titled, "Let Us Meet At the River."

Wallace describes being "totally in the moment" as he walked along the 200-foot bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River.

"My channel of communication with God seemed clear," he said.

The benefits of a physical walk are obvious, Wallace said, from breathing fresh air to getting exercise. But the walk can become much more when a spiritual element is added, he said.

"If you are looking for a way to draw nearer to God," he said, "this is one way."

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