Where I see God

When I first came to this church I was probably in 3rd or 4th grade. At that age I knew nothing about church or God. During my first day everything felt so confusing yet so right. At that time I couldn’t place the feelings that I was experiencing. Then it came to me. I do not truly remember when God really spoke to me, but I do know that I had a feeling of being safe. But just like most believers, my faith faltered and I became unsure. Unsure of who I was, what I was becoming, and where I was going. Just like something else in my life.

Some of you may remember my sister Irissa, who is two years older than me. Our relationship turns out to be a bit like my relationship with God: unsteady. I never knew if she truly loved me or not. I had this feeling that she resented me. At around the ages of two and three Irissa and I were abandoned by our birth mom Joy and adopted by her parents, Ross and Carolee. When I was younger I thought Ross and Carolee were our parents not our grand parents. My sister knew the difference, I didn't until I was told the truth. With these thoughts we drew apart. Just like every older sibling Irissa always liked to be first and was very demanding, everything had to be done her way. My grandparents saw this and decided to separate us by going to different churches. A friend of Carolee’s invited us to her church in Battle Creek.

So we went, and just like at this church I felt safe. I was invited to sing with their choir and I loved it. During my first week  singing with their choir we did a song called On Eagles Wings. The song is based on Psalm 91 (Verses 1-4) which say *Whoever lives under the shelter of the Most High will remain in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord “You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.” He is the one who will rescue you from hunters’ traps and from deadly plagues. He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge. His truth is your shield and armor.*  And  (Verses 14-16) which say,  *Because you love me, I will rescue you.  I will protect because you know my name. When you call to me I will answer you. I will be with you when you are in trouble. I will save you and honor you. I will satisfy you with a long life. I will show you how I will save you.*  As well as Isaiah ch 40:v31 which reads *Yet, the strength of those who wait with hope in the Lord will be renewed. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and won’t become weary. They will walk and won’t grow tired.* It was during this song I knew God was smiling above me, Jesus was beside me, and the Holy Spirit was inside me. Since then I have listened for other songs that speak God's words. Ten Thousand Reasons, Brave, Amazing Grace version (my chains are gone), Gold, and Build Your Kingdom Here are just some of my favorite 21st century gospel songs.

That is where I see God, in songs and how people sing those songs. I have been singing most of my life and will continue to in the future. My future plans involve work, college, more work, and somewhere in that list I plan to find time for church. After graduation I hope to find a job that will help pay for college. I will work for a year before continuing my education. The college I will attend is Baker College in Jackson. There I will take their Vet Tech class. Vet Tech is like being a nurse but for animals.

I know this is what I want to do because that is how God made me. This is the path that was set out before me and I will follow it faithfully. I also know I will continue singing God's word where, I am not sure. Maybe I will return to the Battle Creek church or I may stay here in Richland.. There is a possibility I may find a different church in which to participate. Either way I will keep on singing for Him and it is in his songs that I see God.

By Alanna Wyckoff