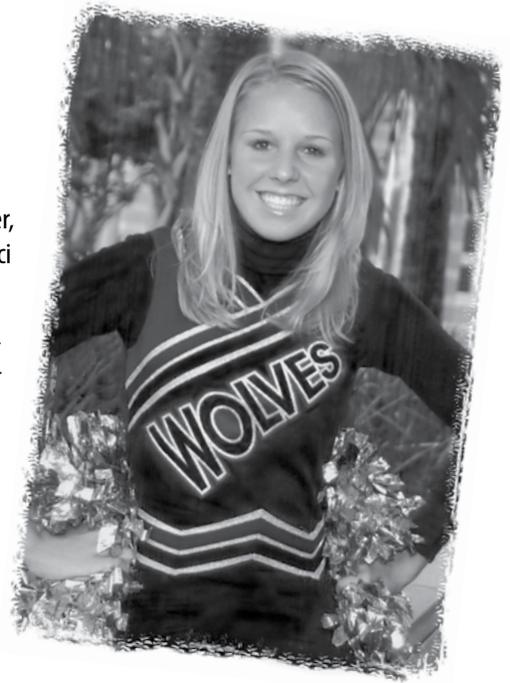


## *A Heart to Change* STACI STEPHENS

Every year, Staci Stephens wrote a Christmas letter to her friends and family. In December, 2004, as a 15 year-old sophomore at Timber Creek High School in Orlando, Florida, Staci wrote the following:

*"This has been the most life-changing year I have ever experienced. On January 18, 2004, I was reborn and found my Savior Jesus Christ at a conference put on by Student Venture (a part of Campus Crusade for Christ) in Cocoa Beach. Since then, I have dropped my old ways of living and completely given myself to Christ. My life has been changed for eternity and now everything that I live for makes sense and I don't have to fill my heart with worldly things anymore. I am completely satisfied and Christ has filled every little void in my life. Through Him, I have learned so much about myself and been able to let go of so many things. Everything I do is for the glory of God and I finally know the life that I've been missing. There was a hole in my soul and I was trying to fill it with every little thing but the very one who can heal it. Jesus Christ is my best friend, my helper and teacher, and most importantly, my loving God."*



Staci woke up every morning at 5:30 AM and spent alone time with God. In her journal on February 3rd, 2005 she wrote:

*"Lord, I want to have my own ministry, not a copy of anybody else's Lord. I know that's going to happen Father and I pray that you just give me strength to do so and time as well Lord. I pray for the future of your ministry while using me Lord. Let me run for you, let me cheer for you, let me sing for you and let me dance for you God. I want it to be for you and nobody else Lord. You hear me, you see me, you feel me Lord and you answer me. God that's so awesome."*

One month later Staci was stricken by Viral Myocarditis. On Friday March 11, 2005 she came home from school feeling tired and sick with what appeared to be a mild case of the flu. The next day she was feeling better, but on Sunday morning she woke up feeling very tired with a tingling sensation in her fingers and toes. Her family took her to the emergency room at Florida Hospital, and while her mother was parking the car, Staci went home to be with her Lord. Staci's family and friends were stunned.

Staci left behind four journals of her faith which indicate her deep desire to live a life of ultimate meaning and purpose. Although Staci did not know that the end was near, her journals indicate a mature faith and an awareness of the Lord's presence in her life. One of her last journal entries, on March 9, 2005, indicates her trust and confidence in the Lord. She wrote:

*Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion. Psalm 73:23-26*

In one short year of walking with Jesus Christ, Staci's life made a profound impact on all those around her because she had a strong desire to share Christ with everyone she knew. Her passion for sharing the love of Jesus is captured in the DVD, "A Heart to Change," and her full story is available online at: [www.StaciStephens.com](http://www.StaciStephens.com).

1. Looking back over the story, what stands out to you most about Staci's life? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what ways can Staci's passion be an encouragement, and a challenge to you personally? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Affirmation #8:**

*With God's help: I will live my life with an eternal perspective and share God's grace with others.*