

The Chipley Bugle

"The Little Paper With the BIG TOOT"

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BCF Student's Story of Faith



While serving as the ship's fire marshal onboard the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), new Baptist College of Florida student Charles Stafford's Navy career came to an abrupt end after serving for over 14 years.

Not prepared to enter the civilian workforce as a disabled veteran, Stafford decided to sell houses in Virginia. By making the transition into this new career, Stafford quickly learned how much he enjoyed working with people and helping them make one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives.

Stafford's success made it possible for him and his wife to move closer to her family in New England. They settled in New Hampshire and Stafford continued selling houses, until they found out that the Lord had other plans for their lives. "After going through several trials and realizing that God was calling us into the ministry," Stafford said, "we stopped resisting, and submitted our lives to following Him." Once they made the commitment to follow Christ, things began to fall into place and their journey to ministry and BCF began. With the guidance and direction of their pastor, they made the decision to first attend Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia. Then during a summer internship in Brazil, Stafford was introduced to Dr. Robin Jumper, dean of faculty and associate professor of evangelism and missions at BCF, and a team of BCF students who were on a 10 day mission trip on the Marco Polo River.

Speaking of that time, Stafford said, “Of all the places for God to reveal His desires, the Amazon River was the last place I would have thought.” However, after spending time speaking with Jumper and seeing the excitement and love for the Lord emulating from each BCF student, Stafford began to give serious consideration about transferring colleges. Once the team left to return to Florida, God continued to bring them to his mind on a regular basis both in Brazil and after Stafford returned home.

Not willing to resist the Lord again, Stafford visited BCF and was able to “see that my first impressions of the students that came to Brazil were right.” He observed that the whole campus was “excited about serving the Lord and worshiping Him” and knew that he was meant to be at BCF. He says that every aspect of their move and transfer to BCF has been exciting, and “there is no greater feeling than to know you are in God’s will and doing the very things He wants you to do.” He calls BCF a college that is mission minded and lives up to the trademark of “Changing the World Through the Unchanging Word®” daily.

Summing up his time at BCF so far, Stafford said, “My family and I feel privileged and blessed to be here and to be surrounded by folks that truly love the Lord.”

Charles Stafford is the son of NKY Chapter 5 Blue Star Mother, Mary Stafford.

Thank you Mary for sharing this wonderful message and inspiring article with us.